

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes  
no

Property Name: Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse Inventory Number: WA-V-179  
Address: 14038 Blairs Valley Road Historic district: yes ☒ X no  
City: Clear Spring Zip Code: 21722 County: Washington  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Clear Spring  
Property Owner: Maryland DNR Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Renovations to Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse and Smokehouse Agency: Maryland DNR  
Agency Prepared By: Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.  
Preparer's Name: Paula Reed Date Prepared: 6/1/2010  
Documentation is presented in: Washington County Land Records  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: \_\_\_\_\_ yes Listed: \_\_\_\_\_ yes  
Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ X no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The oldest section of the Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse, probably built before 1785, is an excellent example of an 18th century Germanic dwelling, with early 19th century additions. It is the product of two families' construction efforts, one a sojourner on the land and the other with long tenure, in Blair's Valley north of Clear Spring in Washington County. The house retains extensive original materials including trim, woodwork, flooring, wrought nails, doors, hardware and a rare surviving side-lapped, long shingle roof remaining in place beneath a later covering. The house retains visual integrity of location, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association with the development of farms and landholdings in Blair's Valley. It is recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C.

Physical Description:

The Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse (WA-V-179) occupies a slight hillside on the east bank of Blair's Valley Lake northwest of Clear Spring in Washington County, MD. The 18th century house, adjacent smokehouse and barn belong to Maryland Department of Natural Resources and currently serve as the headquarters for Indian Springs Wildlife Management area. The existing MIHP form, completed in 1978 was done when there was no access to the property and contains only minimal information about the buildings.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ X Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jonathan Sags  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Blumenthal  
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/21/10  
Date  
6/28/10  
Date

2010 02875

1984 MIHP supplement was completed for the barn on the property. The following documentation provides additional description, historical context and historical background on the farmhouse, as well as evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Facing south, the house spans five bays and stands two stories high with a side gabled roof. The surface is brick veneer over log construction for the three-bay original section and a two-bay addition possibly of brick-nogged timber frame, or also of log construction. Corrugated sheet metal covers the roof, nailed over mid 19th century oak side-beveled long shingles. Chimneys are located inside the west gable end and at the interior between the first and second bays from the east gable end. A major character defining feature is the two story, double deck porch which extends along the entire south (front) elevation of the house. The porch is supported by chamfered square posts, and has a rail with square balusters at the upper level.

Most of the bricks forming the exterior wall surface are stretchers, laid end to end. Iron spikes with large T or L heads appear at intervals securing the bricks and indicating that the brickwork is a veneer applied to a substructure. The house was built in two sections, the east three bays as one unit, log construction with a central chimney, dating from the 18th century; and a two bay addition from the second quarter of the 19th century of timber frame or log construction, with an inside end chimney. The roofing system and porch date from the time of the addition, as there is no division between the two sections in the building's attic or in the porch structure.

Windows have six over six light sash held within narrow frames with mitered corners and a bead at the inside edge. Pairs of attic windows are single paned at the west gable and with two panes at the east gable. Some early wavy glass panes survive in place. There are three entrances into the building, two in the south elevation and one in the east end wall. There is also a door opening from the second story west room, part of the 19th century addition, onto the upper level of the porch. It is the only access to the upper porch. In the south elevation first story, one door opens into the original section of the house, in the first bay from the east end. The door has two flat lower panels with four panes of glass above. Two long wrought iron strap hinges hold the door and hang on pintels driven into the interior casing of the door. The other door, in the second bay from the west end of the house, has six flat panels and is held with butt hinges. The door in the east gable end has six flat panels, and is attached with butt hinges.

None of the doors has a transom. None of the openings has any type of distinctive brickwork such as a soldier course or jack arch over doors or windows.

The interior of the house reveals a traditional Germanic floor plan in the original section, with a few modifications that occurred over time. The east entrance in the south elevation opens into an area that serves as a reception space for visitors to the building. There is a counter, which dates from the late 20th century, and a partial partition of the room. The floor has been replaced with pine tongue and groove flooring, and tongue and groove wainscoting has been added to some of the perimeter walls. In the southeast corner of the room is an enclosed winder stair that leads to the second floor and on to the attic. The enclosure consists of tongue and groove vertical paneling with a bead (slightly more than 1/4") along the tongue side of each board. The paneling is random-width, but wide with clearly evident hand-plane marks. This space was likely the original kitchen for the house, with the typical German arrangement with a large central chimney stack accommodating a service fireplace in the kitchen, and five plate stoves to heat the rooms behind the chimney. At some point, possibly in the early 20th century the large fireplace and chimney system was removed and replaced with a single flue chimney.

The remainder of the older part of the house is divided into two rooms, with a second enclosed staircase in the northwest corner, diagonally opposite the winder stair in the southeast corner. The two remaining rooms would have been a parlor and likely bedroom, or in German terms a stube and kammer. The interior partitions are tongue and groove beaded (approximately 1/2") paneling with chairrail applied. Chairrail features a top rail with an astragal molded edge, a characteristic of 18th century construction. Doors and windows have butt-jointed frames and are trimmed with a massive ovolo backband. Most visible nails are

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MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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At the west end of the house is the addition, consisting of one room at each story, with an inside end chimney in the west wall and a fireplace in the first and second story rooms. The first floor room has a fireplace with a mantelpiece featuring plain pilasters, a frieze panel and mantel shelf. There is no chairrail in the addition to the house. Access to the second floor is by way of the stair case in the original section. The style of the fireplace mantels and the absence of chairrail suggest a construction date in the second quarter of the 19th century.

In the attic, the roofing system is continuous for the entire length of the building, indicating that the roof system dates from the time of the construction of the west addition or later. However, several of the rafters in the older section of the house have been reused and display notches from an earlier set of collar beams than those currently present. This roof retains a covering of side beveled oak long shingles which appear to date from the mid 19th century. This early roof remains intact beneath the current surface treatment of corrugated metal. The long shingles are affixed to widely spaced shingle lath, indicative of the shingle lath placement for long shingles.

There is a full basement under the addition, but only a crawlspace beneath the original section.

Just to the east of the house is a brick smokehouse constructed in common bond brickwork with a gable roof. The entrance to the smokehouse is in the west gable end, closest to the house. Open brickwork creates ventilation and allows light to enter the building on the side walls. The roofing material is corrugated sheet metal.

#### Assessment of Integrity:

The Feidt-Snyder farmhouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity to the two main periods in its history: initial construction of the original section in the 18th century, probably before 1785, and construction of the addition with attendant changes including the application of brick veneer and reconstruction of the roofing system. More recent changes include reconstruction of the central chimney system and installation of plumbing, heating and electrical systems. Blair's Valley Lake, located immediately to the west of the house, was created by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources after it acquired the property in 1966.

Despite these alterations, the historic materials, design, workmanship are evident and visible, evoking the feeling and association with the house's 18th and 19th century appearance.

#### Historic Context:

While the valley lands of Washington County were easily converted to the general/grain farming traditions carried in by German and Pennsylvania-German immigrants, the mountains bordering the valleys on the east and west provided different opportunities for development. Covered with old growth trees and laden with iron ore, the mountains were soon home to several iron furnace operations. The Green Spring Furnace, nestled within the North Mountain ranges to the west, was established in 1765 by Lancelot Jacques and Thomas Johnson (Scharf, p. 1295). The insatiable need for wood to provide charcoal for the furnaces ensured that previously forested mountain land was eventually cleared.

Through the first half of the 19th century, the west-central region of Maryland became known for grain production. Grain was sold

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Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

in bulk, or processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. These commodities were shipped to markets in Baltimore or Philadelphia. Shipping from western Maryland was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no reliable inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac River was seasonally available from the 1790s through 1828. Road transportation served as the primary artery for the freight hauling needs of the region. Maryland, therefore promoted turnpike development, although most of these toll routes were privately funded. The output and growth in population in the western areas of Maryland encouraged construction and improvement of roads.

In 1806 the Federal government began the construction of a highway that would lead to the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands comprising much of the central portion of the United States. The "National Road" began in Cumberland, Maryland following the old Braddock Road, a rough wagon track established by explorers and traders, and led to Wheeling in Virginia (now West Virginia) and later on to Terre Haute, Indiana. The main wagon road from Baltimore to Cumberland, a collection of privately owned and operated turnpike segments that ran through the heart of Washington County was eventually upgraded and consolidated to become part of the National Road system. The National Pike, as it became known, was one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in America with traffic passing all hours of the day and night. The Pike passed through both the town of Clear Spring and the village of Indian Springs spawning hotels, taverns, and shops. It was in 1819 that Indian Springs received its name by virtue of its new Post Office (Scharf, p. 1294).

Construction of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal along the Potomac River as an alternative transportation system began in 1828 and reached the western districts of Washington County by 1839. Not only did the canal open a new avenue of transportation for agricultural products but it also became a source of employment for many who lived nearby. The "canal towns" of Washington County, as well as throughout the adjoining rural areas, were full of men whose occupation listed on the census as "boating on the canal" or "boatman." Other common occupations in rural Washington County included farmer, farm laborer, and – in areas around the several active iron works – miner, collier, and "works at furnace."

The Clear Spring and Indian Springs Districts in Washington County benefited from both the National Pike and the C&O Canal in close proximity. Although highway transportation waned as the canal and railroad peaked through the second half of the 19th century, both districts ranked among the higher rural district populations in 1880 (Scharf, p. 974). Still, the west-central Maryland "bread basket" saw a slow decline in the dominance of grain production and milling, largely due to the advances in steam powered mills and the railroad. As mid-western farms began to concentrate on wheat, the farms of Washington County developed a more diversified product list, eventually shifting to dairy products, fruit, and vegetable production. By 1900, the "General Farm" designation was commonly found on the census in Washington County.

The advent of the automobile in the first decades of the 20th century briefly revived the aging National Turnpike. However, the urbanization and industrialization process of the late 19th century gradually transformed the economy of Maryland. While agricultural pursuits continued in the rural parts of the state, their relative importance as the driving force of the economy declined (Bruchey in Walsh and Fox, p. 483, 484). In 1920, Maryland had become 60% urban with slightly over half the state's population in Baltimore (Crooks in Walsh and Fox, p. 590). Meanwhile suburban residential districts and recreational areas spread outward from Washington D.C. and Baltimore into Montgomery and Baltimore Counties, a trend that has continued to the present. The conversion of farmland use to dairy and orchards led to the decrease of traditional agricultural industries particularly milling and attendant businesses and industries.

The 1930 drought and the Great Depression brought more woes to Maryland farmers. In 1931, one of the major bank failures in Maryland was the Central Trust Company of Frederick and its 11 branches. When it collapsed, it affected 14 smaller banks in western Maryland. This troubled the already depressed farming area in central and western Maryland even more. The bleak economic outlook for farmers in the region encouraged even more people to leave the land and try to turn their fortunes in the city.

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



After World War II with the advent of the post war booming manufacturing economy and the emerging Cold War, population began to shift once again. This time with the encouragement of the government's new interstate highway system, the defense highways developed in the Eisenhower administration, upwardly mobile and automobile owning city dwellers left the urban environments of Washington DC and Baltimore to create suburban neighborhoods on the edges of the cities. Since the late 1940s, suburban development has sprawled outward into and throughout mid-Maryland substantially reducing agriculture and profoundly altering the rural scene.

### Architecture

Log construction remained very typical in Washington County throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, as shown by the vast number of remaining log houses built before 1860. Dwellings built of log range from small cabins to large and pretentious houses. They were almost always covered with clapboards, stucco, or, in the 19th century, with brick casing. Covering the logs in most instances seems to have been the intent upon construction, as suggested by examination of log structures in the area that show little or no weathering on their log walls beneath siding.

The people of mid-Maryland built according to the materials that were available to them, sometimes drawing upon long-established traditions based upon European and British patterns and upon their own interpretations of current styles and construction techniques, adapted to local conditions. Elements of fashionable styles were incorporated into the region's buildings along with traditional features. With the exception of exterior applications of stylistic door treatments and symmetrical fenestration, typically, the more fashionable architectural elements were found on the interior in the form of moldings, mantels, and stairs. Although there are pure stylistic examples, particularly dating from the later 19th century, the vast majority of the region's buildings are vernacular structures.

### Property History:

The Feidt-Snyder Farmstead is sited on part of a tract of 454 acres called Feidt's Dwelling, patented in 1838 by John Feidt, Jr. Feidt was the son of a prominent Clear Spring District farmer, John Feidt, Sr., who established himself in the area in the late 18th century. John Feidt, Jr. was born in 1805, presumably in the Feidt-Snyder house, and in 1833 married Catharine Jacques, daughter of another prominent district landowner Lancelot Jacques.

The 1859 Thomas Taggart Map of Washington County showed John Feidt's tract in Blair's Valley, just off the north face of "Mt. Gilliland." (see attached 1859 map) By 1870 Feidt had retired from farming and was living in Clear Spring, and by 1877 the bulk of the Feidt's Dwelling farm was owned by A.J. Kershner (see attached 1877 map). After a successful life of farming and numerous land transactions, John Feidt passed away in 1872.

The roots of the Feidt-Snyder house go back much farther, however. The recorded history of the property starts on or about the 5th of March 1772 when Andrew Blair conveyed to John Gripe 200 acres of the Resurvey on Mountain of Wales in Blair's Valley. On March 11, 1785, Gripe, noted in the deed as being from Bedford County, PA, sold the property to Denton Jacques for £300 (Washington County Land Records Liber D, folio 412, for both transactions). John Gripe is likely the builder of the original three bay log house following a German central chimney plan.

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Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Denton Jacques who purchased the property from Gripe assembled a huge landholding of thousands of acres in the Clear Spring area including 1,172 acres of Resurvey of Mountain of Wales and S. Worth in the vicinity of Blair's Valley (1803-04 Tax Assessment, Conococheague Hundred, Washington County). Denton Jacques did not live on the land he purchased from John Gripe, and probably leased out any improvements on the property.

On August 23, 1800, Denton Jacques sold John Feidt (spelled Fight in the document) over 300 acres, including 96 acres of "Spring Head," the 200 acres of "Resurvey of Mountain of Wales" that he bought from John Gripe, another approximately 7-acre parcel of Resurvey of Mountain of Wales, and his (Denton Jacques') equity in two small parcels, "Denton's Neglect Number 2" and "Denton's Neglect Number 3," containing together 10 ¾ acres. John Feidt paid \$3,000 for this real estate, a price high enough to indicate that there were substantial improvements on the property. (Washington County Land Records Liber N, Folio 138) Feidt may even have already been living on the land as a tenant.

John Feidt remained on the property, but eventually retired to a house in Clear Spring, turning the Blair's Valley farm over to his second son, John. John Feidt, Sr. made his will on May 4, 1838. He bequeathed "to John Feidt, my second son, my plantation whereon he now dwells and where I used to reside in Blair's Valley, being composed of Spring Head, part of the Resurvey of Mountain of Wales, Denton's Neglect Number One and Number Two, and Gripes Neighbor..." The whole contained about 400 acres. He valued the land at \$15 per acre. (Washington County Will Book D, Folio 352)

In 1838 John Feidt Jr. had the whole 400 acres resurveyed into a tract which he named "Feidt's Dwelling." (Washington County Land Records Liber IN5, Folio 443). It was likely John Feidt, Jr. who made the west addition to the house, covered the entire building with brick veneer, and a new roof, and added the bi-level front porch. However, by 1850 "Feidt's Dwelling" belonged to John's older brother George. No transaction was found for this transfer, but on December 17, 1850, George Feidt and his wife sold "Feidt's Dwelling" back to John Feidt Jr. for \$6,000, the same amount that it was valued in their father's will of 1838. (IN5/443)

On July 29 1872 John Feidt and his wife sold 229 acres of Feidt's Dwelling, including the farmstead buildings to Andrew J. Kershner (Washington County Land Records Liber WMK5, Folio 114). Eleven years later on November 19, 1883, Andrew J. and Hannah Kershner sold the 229-acre farm to George W. Fahnestock for \$6,500. (Washington County Land Records Liber 85, Folio 4). However, only a few days prior, November 13, 1883, Andrew J. Kershner purchased the same acreage from Lewis C. Beard and Susan E. Beard for \$7,000 (Liber 85, Folio 3). George Fahnestock and his wife Susan sold the 229-acre farm back to Andrew J. Kershner for \$6,500 on September 7, 1885. No information appears in the records to explain the sequence of these transactions to and from Andrew Kershner, but Andrew and Hannah Kershner retained the farm until his death.

On March 7, 1904, Hannah Kershner, Andrew's widow and other Kershner heirs sold the 229-acre farm to Charles Steinbaugh for \$3,500, an amount significantly lower than what it sold for almost 20 years earlier. (Liber 119, Folio 648). Two years later on February 17, 1906, Susan M. Snyder, a widow purchased the farm for \$4,000 from Charles and Mary Steinbaugh. (Liber 123, Folio 302). When Susan Snyder died intestate, the property and adjoining lands that she owned descended to Charles L. Snyder, William F. Snyder, and Jesse O. Snyder. The land descended through the Snyder family until January 28, 1966 when Charles Harold Snyder and Roselyn M. Snyder sold 593 acres, including the 229-acre Feidt's Dwelling property to the State of Maryland (Liber 435, Folio 562).

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    A    B    C    D Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

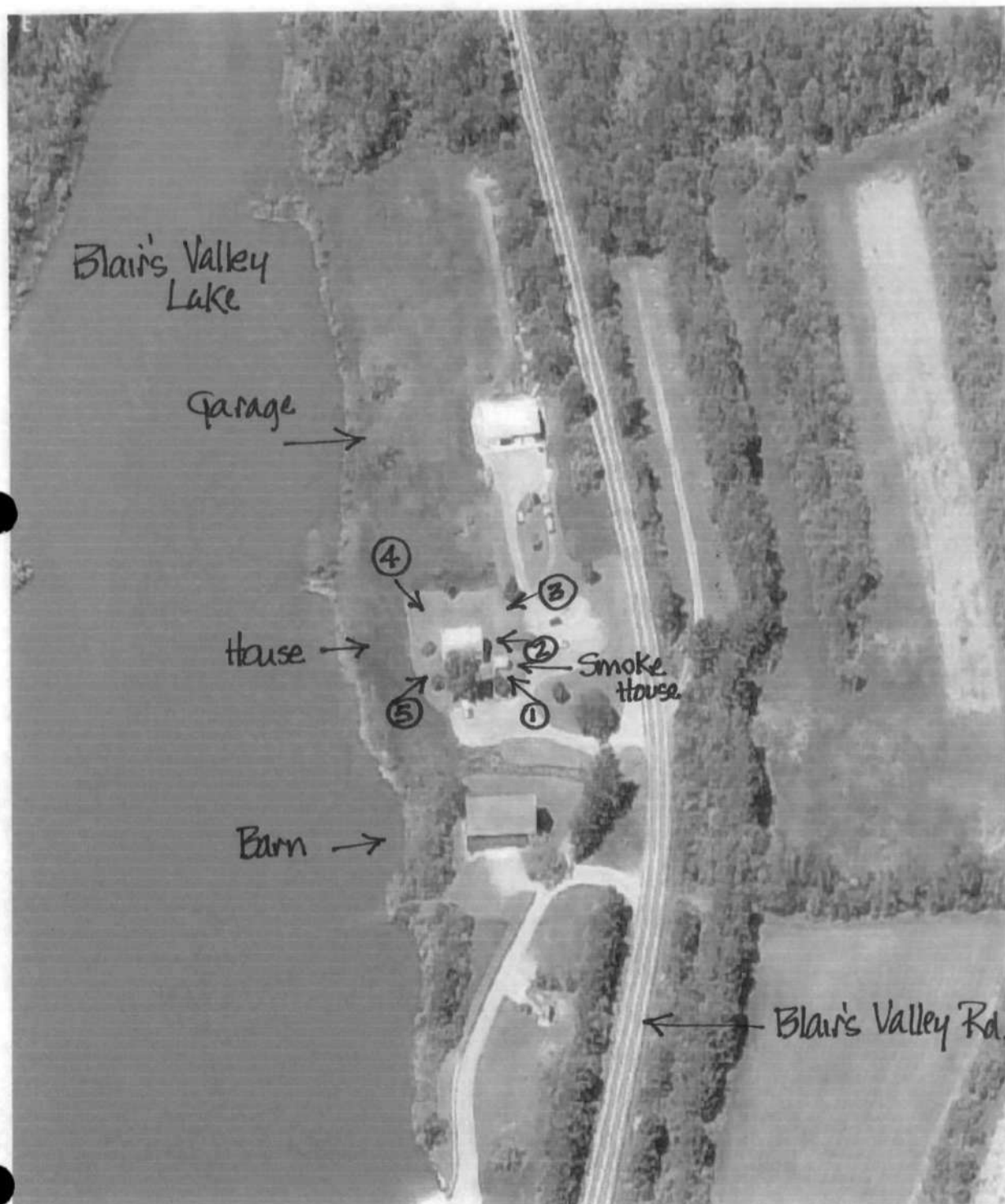
WA-V-179

14038 Blair's Valley Rd

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

North

Aerial View | Site Plan  
Photo View + Number ⑤



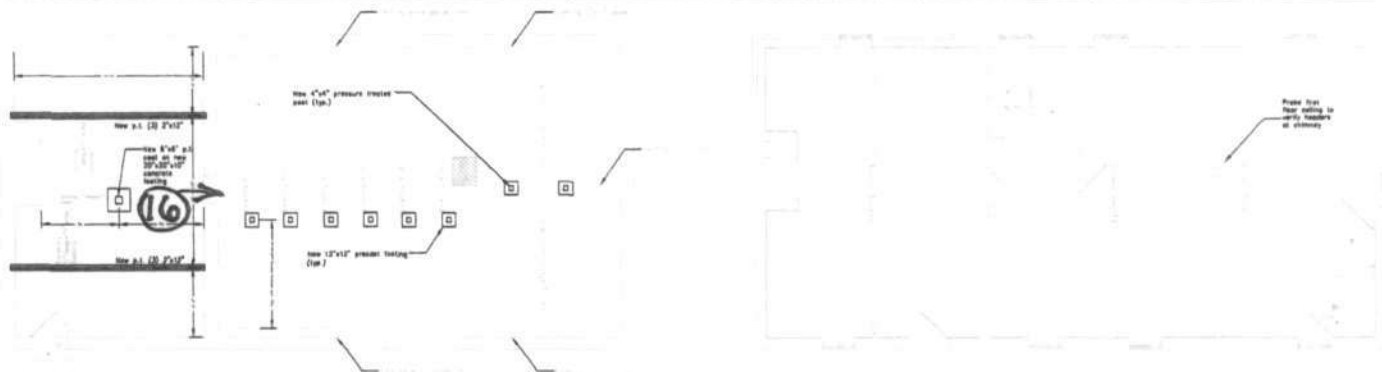


Location Plan

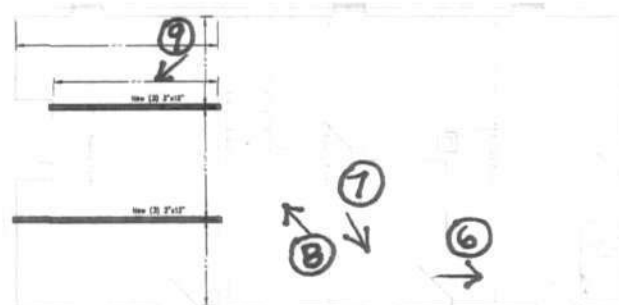
### General Notes

1. Install two new intermediate beams to full extent of first floor joists in the west barn.
2. Install two new intermediate beams to full extent of first floor joists in the east barn.
3. Repair in two places at two locations of wooden beam or joist.
4. Replace missing gable end of roof structure as needed.
5. Replace roof at three exterior walls.
6. Install new joists and battens beneath existing first floor beams.
7. Replace the west chimney.
8. Replace the existing side chimney at the location of east gable.
9. Make a note in the first floor plan showing the existing chimney in the existing location. Provide the same if they are existing.
10. Replace existing roof at a full plan level.
11. Remove and replace existing roof at a full plan level.
12. Remove existing roof and add full.
13. Properly prepare, prime and apply two coats of paint to exterior walls.
14. Remove, replace and replace approximately 100 sq ft of roof decking to include approximately 100 sq ft of rafters and exterior roof joists.
15. Remove and replace existing exterior entrance doors and side walls.
16. Remove and install of existing roof structure to include roof joists to be done.
17. Remove, replace and install in 10-12 existing chimney, a chimney, and all existing chimney doors and flues. Replace chimney structure and replace damaged chimney flues. Remove and replace existing chimney flues, and flues of chimney, and replace both sides of the chimney structure and flues and both sides of the chimney structure and flues.
18. Remove, replace and install existing roof structure and chimney.
19. Remove, replace and install of existing side chimney at the east and east ends of the north house.
20. Remove, replace and install the chimney structure and chimney flues.
21. Properly prepare and apply two coats of paint to the exterior walls of the east and west chimneys to include the full extent of all exterior walls, flues and flues of chimney, and replace both sides of the chimney structure and flues and both sides of the chimney structure and flues.
22. Remove, replace and install all roof structure and chimney flues and chimney structure and chimney flues.

WA-V-179  
Feidt-Snyder  
Farmhouse  
4038 Blair's  
Valley Rd.  
Clear Spring  
Washington Co.



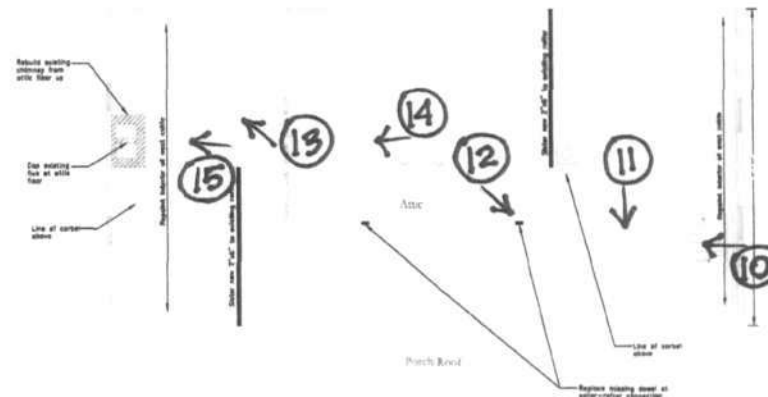
Basement Floor Plan Showing First Floor Framing



First Floor Plan Showing Second Floor Framing

Smoke House Plan

Second Floor Plan Showing Attic and Porch Roof Framing



Attic Plan Showing Roof Framing

Repairs at  
Snyder Farmhouse  
Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area  
Maryland

Building Code  
Design Criteria  
Snow load: 30 psf  
Superimposed Dead  
load: 15 psf  
Live load:  
50 psf @ 2nd Floor  
100 psf @ 1st Floor  
Soil capacity 2 tpf  
(assumed)  
IBC Occupancy 9-1  
IBC Const. Type 3-B

### Property Information

Revised:  
Issued: 4/8/10  
Designed: MD  
Checked: CRK  
Scale: as noted  
Reference: 08-084

**KPA**

KENNEDY + FORTER  
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

Consulting Engineers

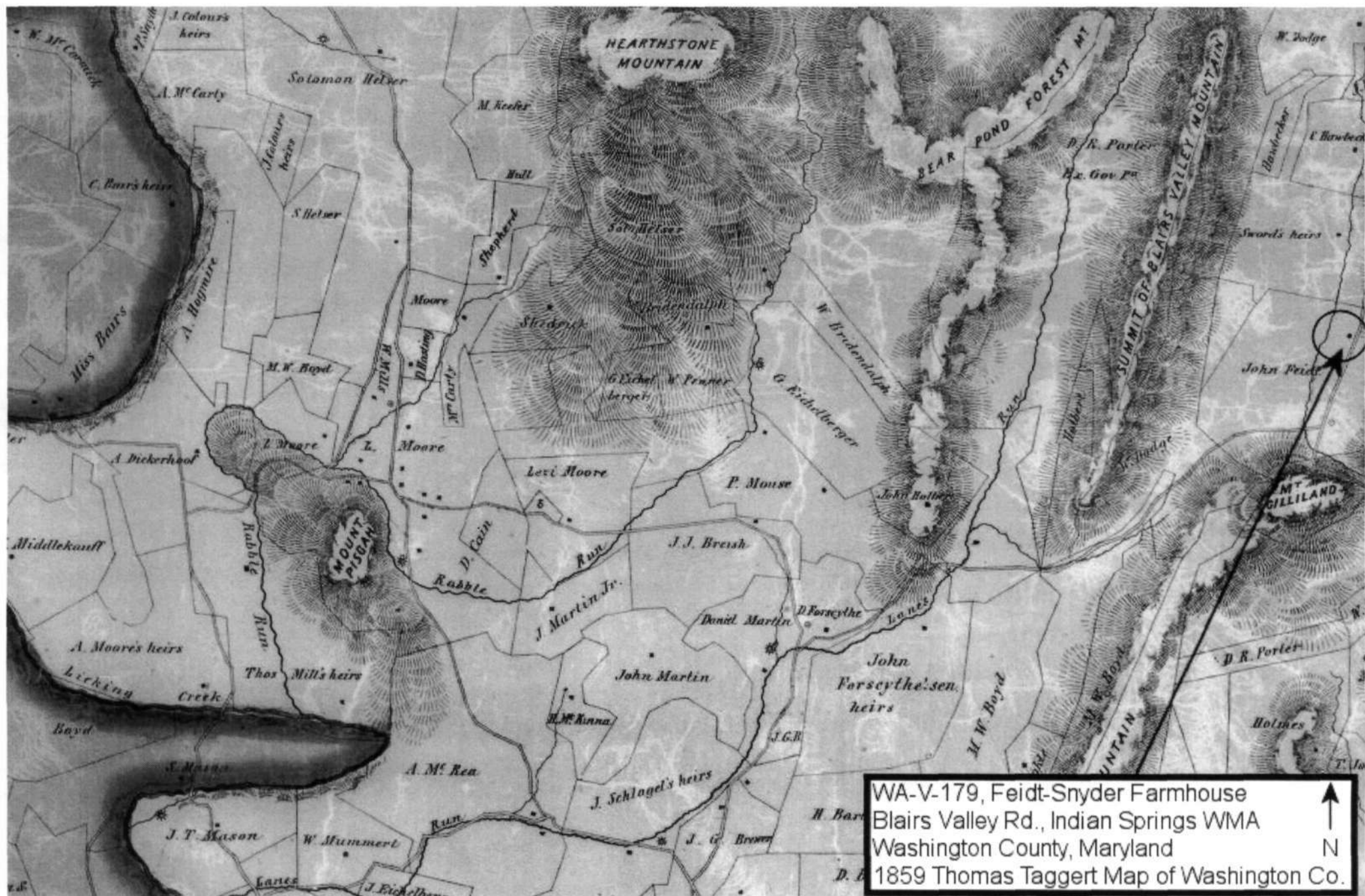
15211 State Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244  
Tel: (410) 681-8000  
Fax: (410) 681-8111  
E: kpa-engineers.com

Professional Certification  
I hereby certify that  
these documents were  
prepared or approved by  
me, and that I am a  
 duly licensed professional  
engineer under the laws  
of the State of  
Maryland, License  
No. 28223, Expiration  
Date 10/18/10.

S-1

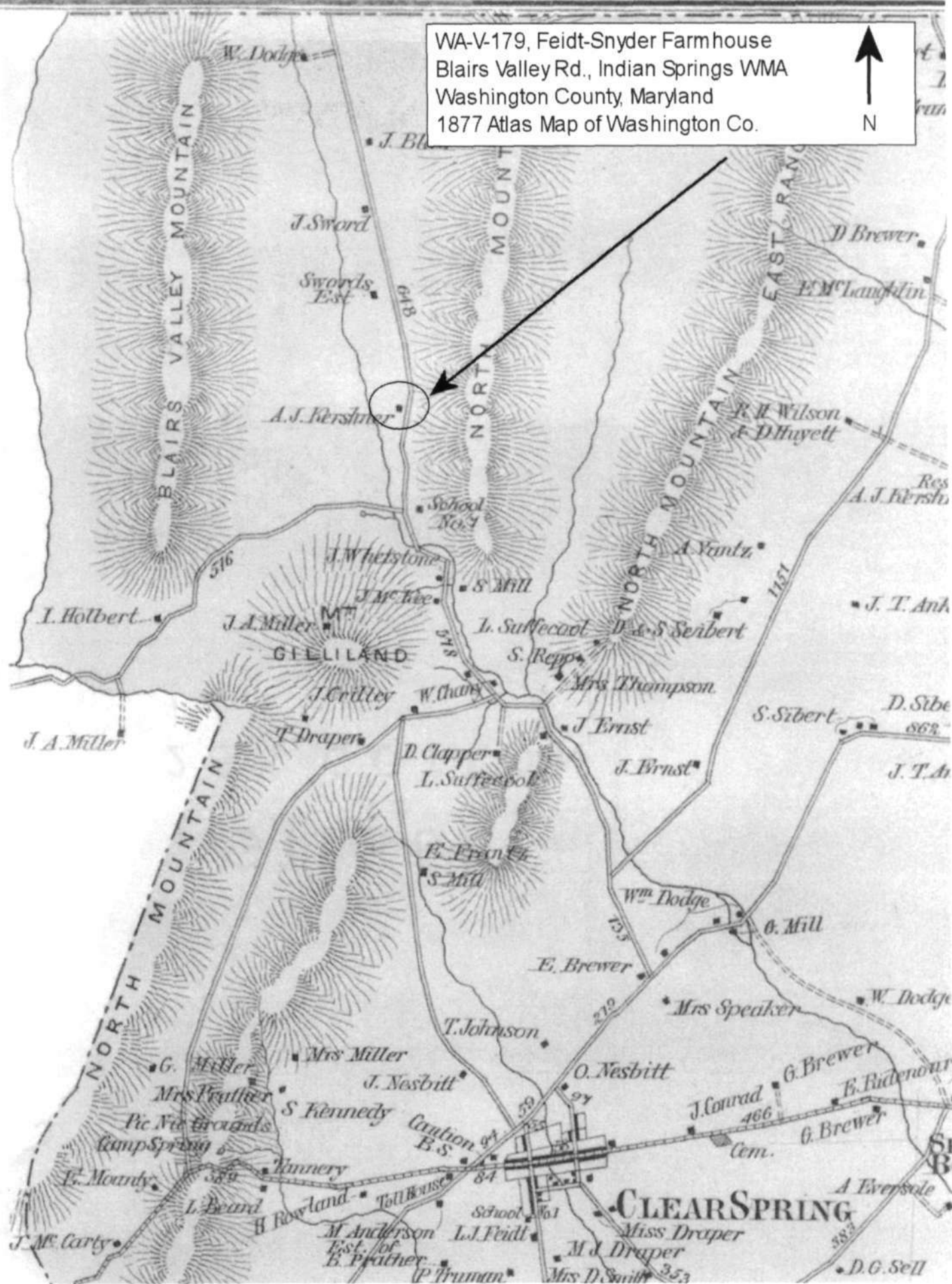
Floor plans  
Photo view and number (Interior) ← ①



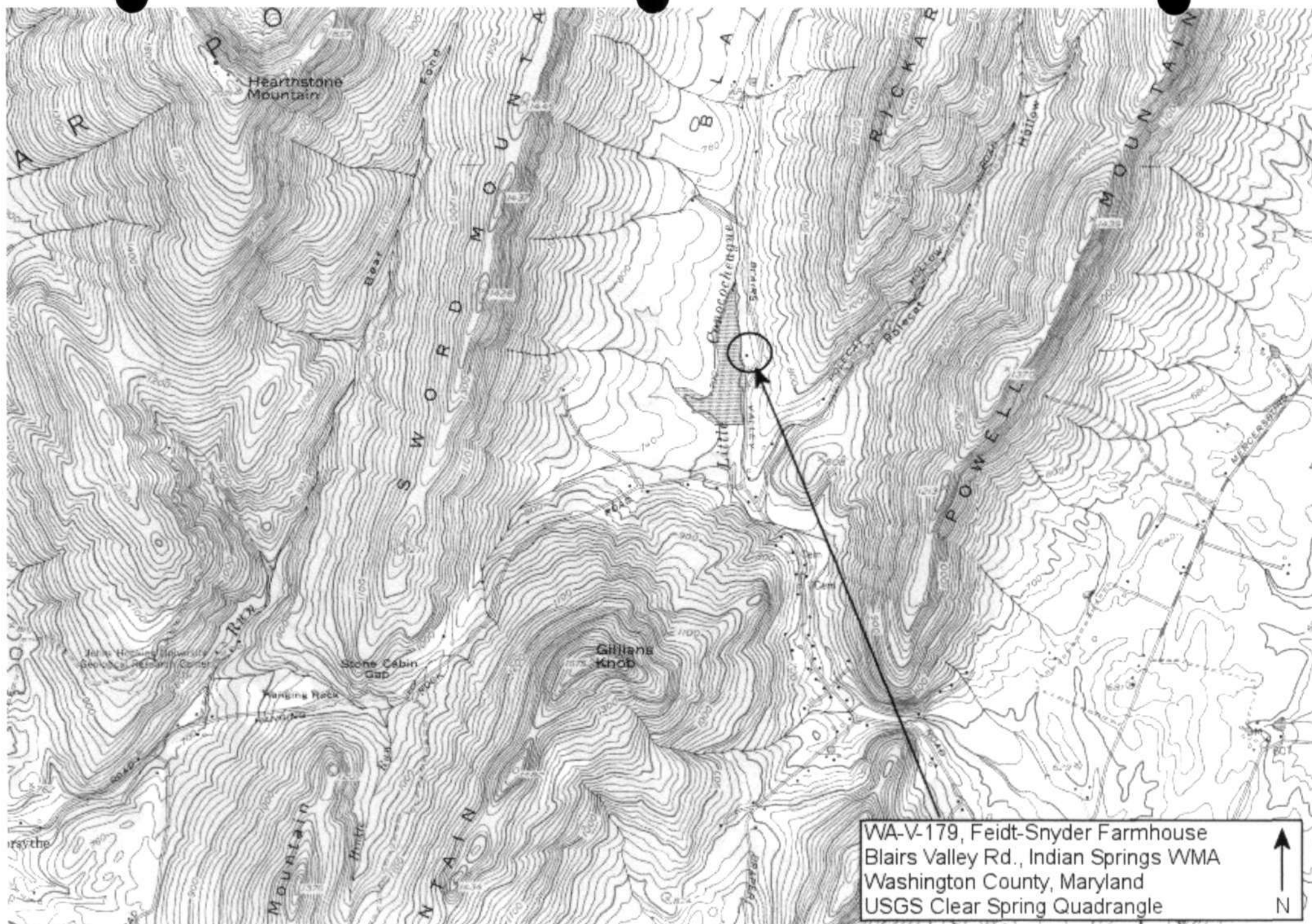


WA-V-179, Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
Blairs Valley Rd., Indian Springs WMA  
Washington County, Maryland  
1859 Thomas Taggart Map of Washington Co.

WA-V-179, Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
Blairs Valley Rd., Indian Springs WMA  
Washington County, Maryland  
1877 Atlas Map of Washington Co.







# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-V-179

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

Historic Feidt-Snyder House

other

### 2. Location

street and number Blair's Valley Road not for publication

city, town Clear Spring X vicinity

county Washington

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

street and number

telephone

city, town

state

zip code

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington Co. Courthouse

tax map and parcel

city, town Hagerstown

liber

435

folio

562

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District

Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

X Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Recorded by HABS/HAER

Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

Other:

### 6. Classification

#### Category

district  
X building(s)  
structure  
site  
object

#### Ownership

X public  
private  
both

#### Current Function

agriculture  
commerce/trade  
defense  
domestic  
education  
funerary  
government  
health care  
industry  
landscape  
X recreation/culture  
religion  
social  
transportation  
work in progress  
unknown  
vacant/not in use  
other:

#### Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	Total

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

N/A



## 7. Description

Inventory No. WA-V-179

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Physical Description:

The Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse (WA-V-179) occupies a slight hillside on the east bank of Blair's Valley Lake northwest of Clear Spring in Washington County, MD. The 18<sup>th</sup> century house, adjacent smokehouse and barn belong to Maryland Department of Natural Resources and currently serve as the headquarters for Indian Springs Wildlife Management area. The existing MIHP form, completed in 1978 was done when there was no access to the property and contains only minimal information about the buildings. A 1984 MIHP supplement was completed for the barn on the property. The following documentation provides additional description, historical context and historical background on the farmhouse, and adjacent smokehouse as well as evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Facing south, the house spans five bays and stands two stories high with a side gabled roof. The surface is brick veneer over log construction for the three-bay original section and a two-bay addition possibly of brick-nogged timber frame, or also of log construction. Corrugated sheet metal covers the roof, nailed over mid 19<sup>th</sup> century oak side-beveled long shingles. Chimneys are located inside the west gable end and at the interior between the first and second bays from the east gable end. A major character defining feature is the two story, double deck porch which extends along the entire south (front) elevation of the house. The porch is supported by chamfered square posts, and has a rail with square balusters at the upper level.

Most of the bricks forming the exterior wall surface are stretchers, laid end to end. Iron spikes with large T or L heads appear at intervals securing the bricks and indicating that the brickwork is a veneer applied to a substructure. The house was built in two sections, the east three bays as one unit, log construction with a central chimney, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century; and a two bay addition from the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century of timber frame or log construction, with an inside end chimney. The roofing system and porch likely date from the time of the addition, as there is no division between the two sections in the building's attic or in the porch structure.

Windows have six over six light sash held within narrow frames with mitered corners and a bead at the inside edge. Pairs of attic windows are single paned at the west gable and with two panes at the east gable. Some early wavy glass panes survive in place. There are three entrances into the building, two in the south elevation and one in the east end wall. There is also a door opening from the second story west room, part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century addition, onto the upper level of the porch. It is the only access to the upper porch. In the south elevation first story, one door opens into the original section of the house, in the first bay from the east end. The door has two flat lower panels with four panes of glass above. Two long wrought iron strap hinges hold the door and hang on pintels driven into the interior casing of the door. The other door, in the second bay from the west end of the house, has six flat panels and is held with butt hinges. The door in the east gable end has six flat panels, and is attached with butt hinges.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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None of the doors has a transom. None of the openings has any type of distinctive brickwork such as a soldier course or jack arch over doors or windows.

The interior of the house reveals a traditional Germanic floor plan in the original section, with a few modifications that occurred over time. The east entrance in the south elevation opens into an area that currently serves as a reception space for visitors to the building. There is a counter, which dates from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, and a partial partition of the room. The floor has been replaced with pine tongue and groove flooring, and tongue and groove wainscoting has been added to some of the perimeter walls. In the southeast corner of the room is an enclosed winder stair that leads to the second floor and on to the attic. The enclosure consists of tongue and groove vertical paneling with a bead (slightly more than 1/4") along the tongue side of each board. The paneling is random-width, but wide with clearly evident hand-plane marks. This space was likely the original kitchen for the house, with the typical German arrangement with a large central chimney stack accommodating a service fireplace in the kitchen, and five-plate stoves to heat the rooms behind the chimney. At some point, possibly in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the large fireplace and chimney system was removed and replaced with a single flue chimney.

The remainder of the older part of the house is divided into two rooms, with a second enclosed staircase in the northwest corner, diagonally opposite the winder stair in the southeast corner. The two remaining rooms would have been a parlor and likely bedroom, or in German terms a stube and kammer. The interior partitions are tongue and groove beaded (approximately 1/2") paneling with chairrail applied. Chairrail features a top rail with an astragal molded edge, a characteristic of 18<sup>th</sup> century construction. Doors and windows have butt-jointed frames and are trimmed with a massive ovolo backband. Most visible nails are wrought.

At the west end of the house is the addition, consisting of one room at each story, with an inside end chimney in the west wall and a fireplace in the first and second story rooms. The first floor room has a fireplace with a mantelpiece featuring plain pilasters, a frieze panel and mantel shelf. There is no chairrail in the addition to the house. Access to the second floor is by way of the stair case in the original section. The style of the fireplace mantels and the absence of chairrail suggest a construction date in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the attic, the roofing system is continuous for the entire length of the building, indicating that the roof system dates from the time of the construction of the west addition or later. However, several of the rafters in the older section of the house have been reused and display notches from an earlier set of collar beams than those currently present. This roof retains a covering of side-beveled oak long shingles which appear to date from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. This early roof remains intact beneath the current

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-V-179

Name Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

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surface treatment of corrugated metal. The long shingles are affixed to widely spaced shingle lath, indicative of the shingle lath placement for long shingles.

There is a full basement under the addition, but only a crawlspace beneath the original section.

Just to the east of the house is a brick smokehouse constructed in common bond brickwork with a gable roof. The entrance to the smokehouse is in the west gable end, closest to the house. Open brickwork creates ventilation and allows light to enter the building on the side walls. The roofing material is corrugated sheet metal.

### Assessment of Integrity:

The Feidt-Snyder farmhouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity to the two main periods in its history: initial construction of the original section in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, probably before 1785, and construction of the addition with attendant changes including the application of brick veneer and reconstruction of the roofing system. More recent changes include reconstruction of the central chimney system and installation of plumbing, heating and electrical systems. Blair's Valley Lake, located immediately to the west of the house, was created by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources after it acquired the property in 1966.

Despite these alterations, the historic materials, design, workmanship are evident and visible, evoking the feeling and association with the house's 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WA-V-179

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates N/A Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates ca. 1780; ca. 1815

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☒ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Statement of Significance:

The oldest section of the Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse, probably built between 1772 and 1785, is an excellent example of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Germanic dwelling, with early 19<sup>th</sup> century additions. It is the product of two families' construction efforts, one a sojourner on the land and the other with long tenure, in Blair's Valley north of Clear Spring in Washington County. The presumed builder of the older part of the house is John Gripe, who purchased 200 acres from Andrew Blair in 1772 and sold it in 1785 to Denton Jacques for £300. The price Jacques paid indicates that there were improvements on the land that he probably leased out to a tenant. Denton Jacques assembled land holdings of thousands of acres in the Clear Spring area and did not reside on this property. In 1800, Jacques sold the 200 acres he bought from Gripe, along with other adjoining lands totaling all together 300 acres to John Feidt for \$3,000, a price indicating substantial improvements on the land. Feidt may have already been living on the property as a tenant. John Feidt, or his son, John, Jr. most likely constructed the addition to the west end, added the porch, replaced the roofing system, and constructed the smokehouse.

The Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse house retains extensive original materials including trim, woodwork, flooring, wrought nails, doors, hardware and a rare surviving side-lapped, long shingle roof remaining in place beneath a later covering. The house retains visual integrity of location, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association with the development of farms and landholdings in Blair's Valley. It is recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C.

### Historic Context:

While the valley lands of Washington County were easily converted to the general/grain farming traditions carried in by German and Pennsylvania-German immigrants, the mountains bordering the valleys on the east and west provided different opportunities for development. Covered with old growth trees and laden with iron ore, the mountains were soon home to several iron furnace operations. The Green Spring Furnace, nestled within the North Mountain ranges to the west, was established in 1765 by



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse

### Continuation Sheet

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Lancelot Jacques and Thomas Johnson (Scharf, p. 1295). The insatiable need for wood to provide charcoal for the furnaces ensured that previously forested mountain land was eventually cleared.

Through the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the west-central region of Maryland became known for grain production. Grain was sold in bulk, or processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. These commodities were shipped to markets in Baltimore or Philadelphia. Shipping from western Maryland was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no reliable inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac River was seasonally available from the 1790s through 1828. Road transportation served as the primary artery for the freight hauling needs of the region. Maryland, therefore promoted turnpike development, although most of these toll routes were privately funded. The output and growth in population in the western areas of Maryland encouraged construction and improvement of roads.

In 1806 the Federal government began the construction of a highway that would lead to the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands comprising much of the central portion of the United States. The "National Road" began in Cumberland, Maryland following the old Braddock Road, a rough wagon track established by explorers and traders, and led to Wheeling in Virginia (now West Virginia) and later on to Terre Haute, Indiana. The main wagon road from Baltimore to Cumberland, a collection of privately owned and operated turnpike segments that ran through the heart of Washington County was eventually upgraded and consolidated to become part of the National Road system. The National Pike, as it became known, was one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in America with traffic passing all hours of the day and night. The Pike passed through both the town of Clear Spring and the village of Indian Springs spawning hotels, taverns, and shops. It was in 1819 that Indian Springs received its name by virtue of its new Post Office (Scharf, p. 1294).

Construction of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal along the Potomac River as an alternative transportation system began in 1828 and reached the western districts of Washington County by 1839. Not only did the canal open a new avenue of transportation for agricultural products but it also became a source of employment for many who lived nearby. The "canal towns" of Washington County, as well as throughout the adjoining rural areas, were full of men whose occupation listed on the census as "boating on the canal" or "boatman." Other common occupations in rural Washington County included farmer, farm laborer, and – in areas around the several active iron works – miner, collier, and "works at furnace."

The Clear Spring and Indian Springs Districts in Washington County benefited from both the National Pike and the C&O Canal in close proximity. Although highway transportation waned as the canal and railroad peaked through the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, both districts ranked among the higher rural

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

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district populations in 1880 (Scharf, p. 974). Still, the west-central Maryland "bread basket" saw a slow decline in the dominance of grain production and milling, largely due to the advances in steam powered mills and the railroad. As mid-western farms began to concentrate on wheat, the farms of Washington County developed a more diversified product list, eventually shifting to dairy products, fruit, and vegetable production. By 1900, the "General Farm" designation was commonly found on the census in Washington County.

The advent of the automobile in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century briefly revived the aging National Turnpike. However, the urbanization and industrialization process of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century gradually transformed the economy of Maryland. While agricultural pursuits continued in the rural parts of the state, their relative importance as the driving force of the economy declined (Bruchey in Walsh and Fox, p. 483, 484). In 1920, Maryland had become 60% urban with slightly over half the state's population in Baltimore (Crooks in Walsh and Fox, p. 590). Meanwhile suburban residential districts and recreational areas spread outward from Washington D.C. and Baltimore into Montgomery and Baltimore Counties, a trend that has continued to the present. The conversion of farmland use to dairy and orchards led to the decrease of traditional agricultural industries particularly milling and attendant businesses and industries.

The 1930 drought and the Great Depression brought more woes to Maryland farmers. In 1931, one of the major bank failures in Maryland was the Central Trust Company of Frederick and its 11 branches. When it collapsed, it affected 14 smaller banks in western Maryland. This troubled the already depressed farming area in central and western Maryland even more. The bleak economic outlook for farmers in the region encouraged even more people to leave the land and try to turn their fortunes in the city.

After World War II with the advent of the post war booming manufacturing economy and the emerging Cold War, population began to shift once again. This time with the encouragement of the government's new interstate highway system, the defense highways developed in the Eisenhower administration, upwardly mobile and automobile owning city dwellers left the urban environments of Washington DC and Baltimore to create suburban neighborhoods on the edges of the cities. Since the late 1940s, suburban development has sprawled outward into and throughout mid-Maryland substantially reducing agriculture and profoundly altering the rural scene.

Architecture

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-V-179

Name Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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Log construction remained very typical in Washington County throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, as shown by the vast number of remaining log houses built before 1860. Dwellings built of log range from small cabins to large and pretentious houses. They were almost always covered with clapboards, stucco, or, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with brick casing. Covering the logs in most instances seems to have been the intent upon construction, as suggested by examination of log structures in the area that show little or no weathering on their log walls beneath siding.

The people of mid-Maryland built according to the materials that were available to them, sometimes drawing upon long-established traditions based upon European and British patterns and upon their own interpretations of current styles and construction techniques, adapted to local conditions. Elements of fashionable styles were incorporated into the region's buildings along with traditional features. With the exception of exterior applications of stylistic door treatments and symmetrical fenestration, typically, the more fashionable architectural elements were found on the interior in the form of moldings, mantels, and stairs. Although there are pure stylistic examples, particularly dating from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, the vast majority of the region's buildings are vernacular structures.

### Property History:

The Feidt-Snyder Farmstead is sited on part of a tract of 454 acres called *Feidt's Dwelling*, patented in 1838 by John Feidt, Jr. Feidt was the son of a prominent Clear Spring District farmer, John Feidt, Sr., who established himself in the area in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. John Feidt, Jr. was born in 1805, presumably in the Feidt-Snyder house, and in 1833 married Catharine Jacques, daughter of another prominent district landowner Lancelot Jacques.

The 1859 Thomas Taggart Map of Washington County showed John Feidt's tract in Blair's Valley, just off the north face of "Mt. Gilliland." (see attached 1859 map) By 1870 Feidt had retired from farming and was living in Clear Spring, and by 1877 the bulk of the *Feidt's Dwelling* farm was owned by A.J. Kershner (see attached 1877 map). After a successful life of farming and numerous land transactions, John Feidt passed away in 1872.

The roots of the Feidt-Snyder house go back much farther, however. The recorded history of the property starts on or about the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1772 when Andrew Blair conveyed to John Gripe 200 acres of the Resurvey on Mountain of Wales in Blair's Valley. On March 11, 1785, Gripe, noted in the deed as being from Bedford County, PA, sold the property to Denton Jacques for £300 (Washington County Land Records Liber D, folio 412, for both transactions). John Gripe is likely the builder of the original three bay log house following a German central chimney plan.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-V-179

Name Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

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Denton Jacques who purchased the property from Gripe assembled a huge landholding of thousands of acres in the Clear Spring area including 1,172 acres of Resurvey of Mountain of Wales and S. Worth in the vicinity of Blair's Valley (1803-04 Tax Assessment, Conococheague Hundred, Washington County). Denton Jacques did not live on the land he purchased from John Gripe, and probably leased out any improvements on the property.

On August 23, 1800, Denton Jacques sold John Feidt (spelled Fight in the document) over 300 acres, including 96 acres of "Spring Head," the 200 acres of "Resurvey of Mountain of Wales" that he bought from John Gripe, another approximately 7-acre parcel of Resurvey of Mountain of Wales, and his (Denton Jacques') equity in two small parcels, "Denton's Neglect Number 2" and "Denton's Neglect Number 3," containing together 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres. John Feidt paid \$3,000 for this real estate, a price high enough to indicate that there were substantial improvements on the property. (Washington County Land Records Liber N, Folio 138) Feidt may even have already been living on the land as a tenant.

John Feidt remained on the property, but eventually retired to a house in Clear Spring, turning the Blair's Valley farm over to his second son, John. John Feidt, Sr. made his will on May 4, 1838. He bequeathed "to John Feidt, my second son, my plantation whereon he now dwells and where I used to reside in Blair's Valley, being composed of Spring Head, part of the Resurvey of Mountain of Wales, Denton's Neglect Number One and Number Two, and Gripes Neighbor..." The whole contained about 400 acres. He valued the land at \$15 per acre. (Washington County Will Book D, Folio 352)

In 1838 John Feidt Jr. had the whole 400 acres resurveyed into a tract which he named "Feidt's Dwelling." (Washington County Land Records Liber IN5, Folio 443). It was likely John Feidt, Jr. who made the west addition to the house, covered the entire building with brick veneer, and a new roof, and added the bi-level front porch. However, by 1850 "Feidt's Dwelling" belonged to John's older brother George. No transaction was found for this transfer, but on December 17, 1850, George Feidt and his wife sold "Feidt's Dwelling" back to John Feidt Jr. for \$6,000, the same amount that it was valued in their father's will of 1838. (IN5/443)

On July 29 1872 John Feidt and his wife sold 229 acres of Feidt's Dwelling, including the farmstead buildings to Andrew J. Kershner (Washington County Land Records Liber WMK5, Folio 114). Eleven years later on November 19, 1883, Andrew J. and Hannah Kershner sold the 229-acre farm to George W. Fahnestock for \$6,500. (Washington County Land Records Liber 85, Folio 4). However, only a few days prior, November 13, 1883, Andrew J. Kershner purchased the same acreage from Lewis C. Beard and Susan E. Beard for \$7,000 (Liber 85, Folio 3). George Fahnestock and his wife Susan sold the 229-acre farm back to Andrew J. Kershner for \$6,500 on September 7, 1885. No information appears in the



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

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records to explain the sequence of these transactions to and from Andrew Kershner, but Andrew and Hannah Kershner retained the farm until his death.

On March 7, 1904. Hannah Kershner, Andrew's widow and other Kershner heirs sold the 229-acre farm to Charles Steinbaugh for \$3,500, an amount significantly lower than what it sold for almost 20 years earlier. (Liber 119, Folio 648). Two years later on February 17, 1906, Susan M. Snyder, a widow purchased the farm for \$4,000 from Charles and Mary Steinbaugh. (Liber 123, Folio 302). When Susan Snyder died intestate, the property and adjoining lands that she owned descended to Charles L. Snyder, William F. Snyder, and Jesse O. Snyder. The land descended through the Snyder family until January 28, 1966 when Charles Harold Snyder and Roselyn M. Snyder sold 593 acres, including the 229-acre Feidt's Dwelling property to the State of Maryland (Liber 435, Folio 562).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WA-V-179

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. (Baltimore: 1882), reprint Regional Publishing Co., 1969.  
Walsh, Richard and William Lloyd Fox, eds. Maryland, A History. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1974.  
Washington County Land Records, Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property approx. 5 acres  
Acreage of historical setting approx. 5 acres  
Quadrangle name Clear Spring Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary chosen for this recordation includes approximately 5 acres to capture the house, smokehouse and immediately associated grounds discussed in this MIHP form. This is a small portion of the larger farm which contains approximately 377 acres, some of which are now covered with Blairs Valley Lake. For purposes of this documentation, the boundary follows the edge of parking and driveway areas on the south and east, the shore of the lake on the west and the border of the mowed area of lawn on the north. Earlier MIHP forms for WA-V-179 include the entire acreage and discuss the barn.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paula Reed, Ph.D		
organization	Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.	date	June 3, 2010
street & number	1 W. Franklin St., Suite 300	telephone	301-739-2070
city or town	Hagerstown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-V-179

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 1

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Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse

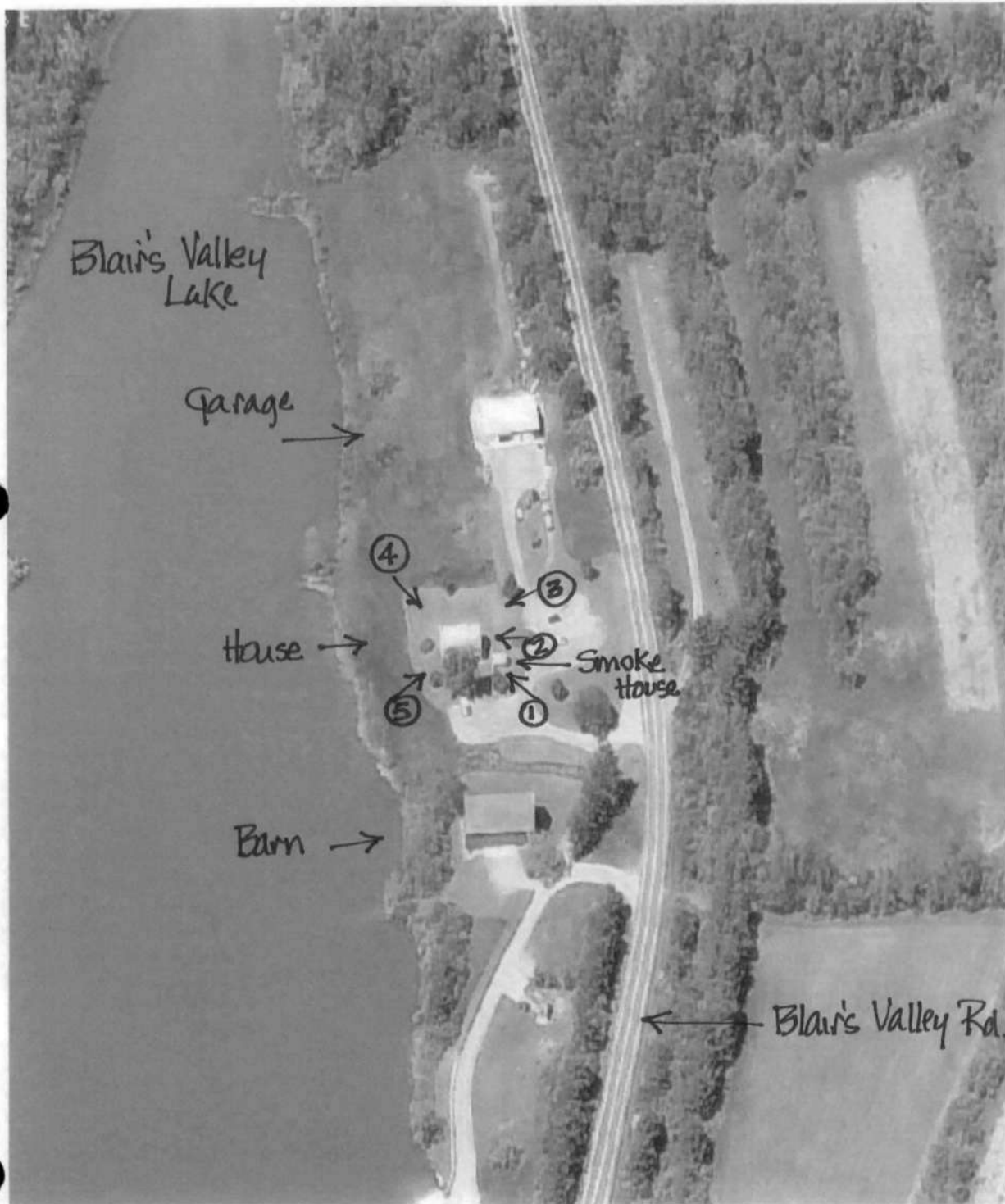
NA-V-179

14038 Blair's Valley Rd

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

North

Aerial View | Site Plan  
Photo View + Number ①



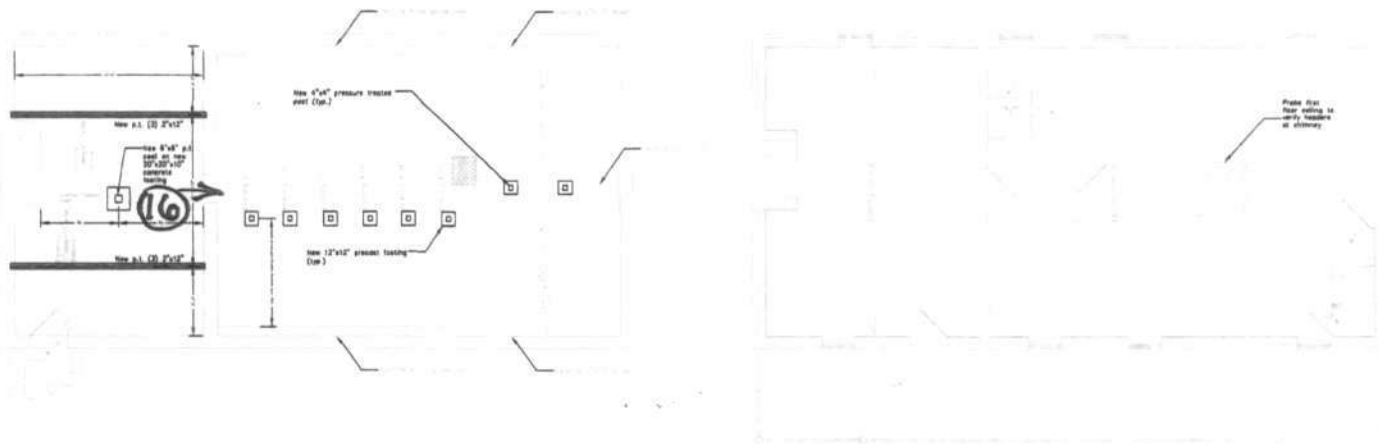


### Location Plan

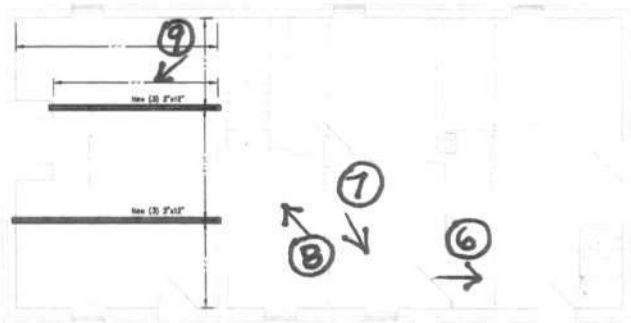
### General Notes

- [illegible]

WA-V-179  
Feldt-Snyder  
Farmhouse  
4038 Blair's  
Valley Rd.  
Clear Spring  
Washington Co.



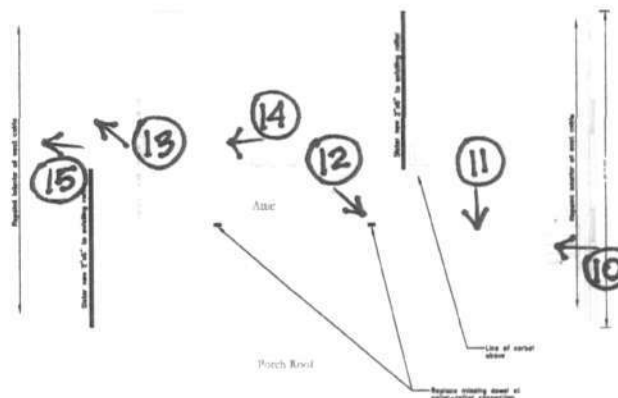
Basement Floor Plan Showing First Floor Framing



First Floor Plan Showing Second Floor Framming

 Smoke House Plan 

Ⓐ Second Floor Plan Showing Attic and Porch Roof Framing ⬆



Attic Plan Showing Roof Framing

Repairs at  
Snyder Farmhouse  
Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area  
Maryland

**Building Code**  
**Design Criteria**  
Snow load: 30 psf  
Superimposed Dead  
load: 15 psf  
Live load:  
50 psf @ 2nd Floor  
100 psf @ 1st Floor  
Soil capacity 2 tsf  
(assumed)  
IBC Occupancy B-1  
IBC Const. Type S-B

Property  
Information

Revised:
Issued: 4/8/10
Designed MO
Checked: CRK
Scale: as noted
Reference: 09-064

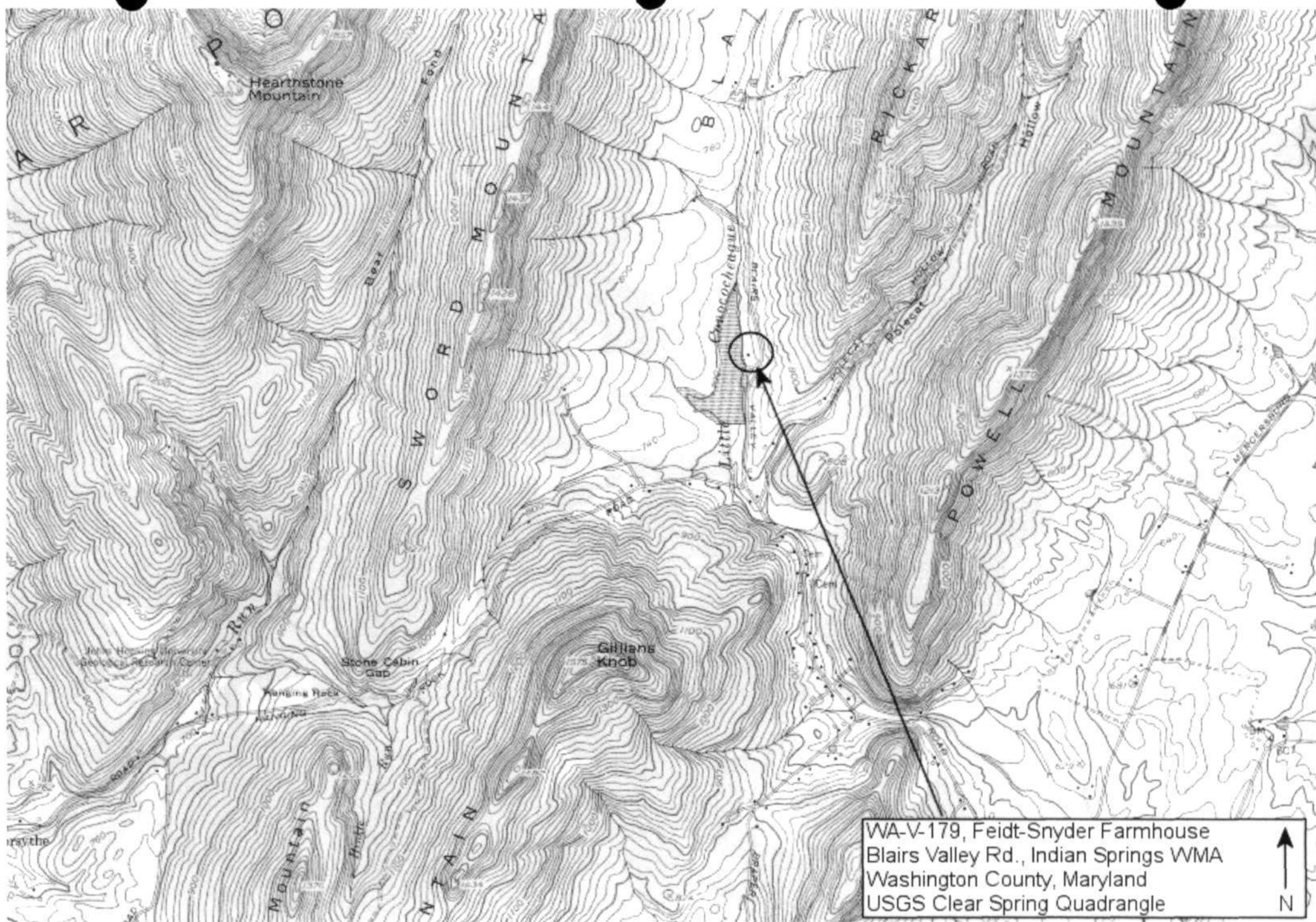
**KPA**  
KENNEDY + PORTER  
& ASSOCIATES, INC.  
Consulting Engineers

1629 Union Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 212  
ph. 410.662.8000  
fx. 410.662.8111  
e. [info@montgomery.com](mailto:info@montgomery.com)

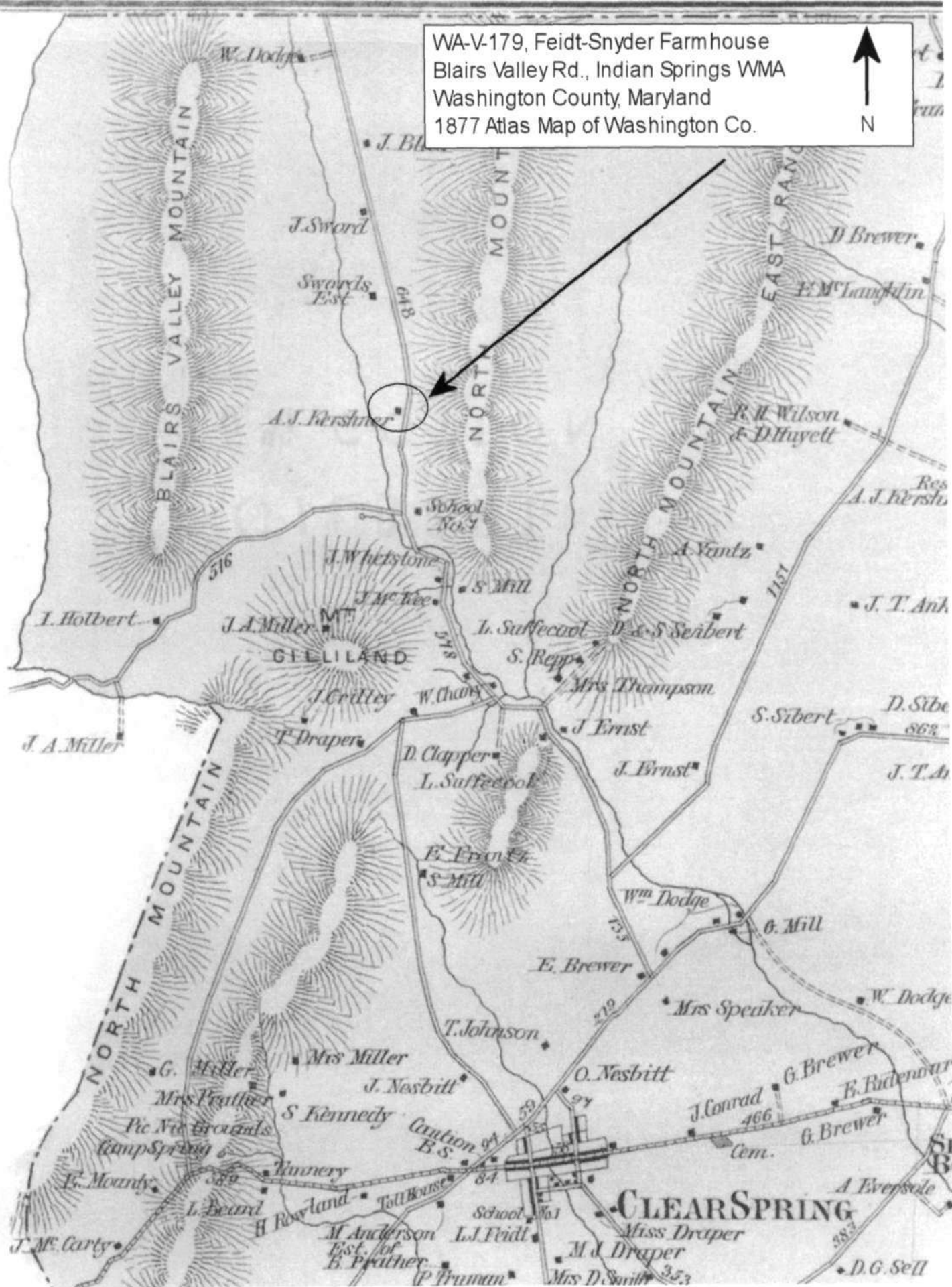
Professional Certification  
I hereby certify that  
these documents were  
prepared or approved by  
me, and that I am a  
fully licensed professional  
engineer under the laws  
of the State of  
Maryland. License  
No. 28002 (expiration  
Date 10/18/10)

S-1

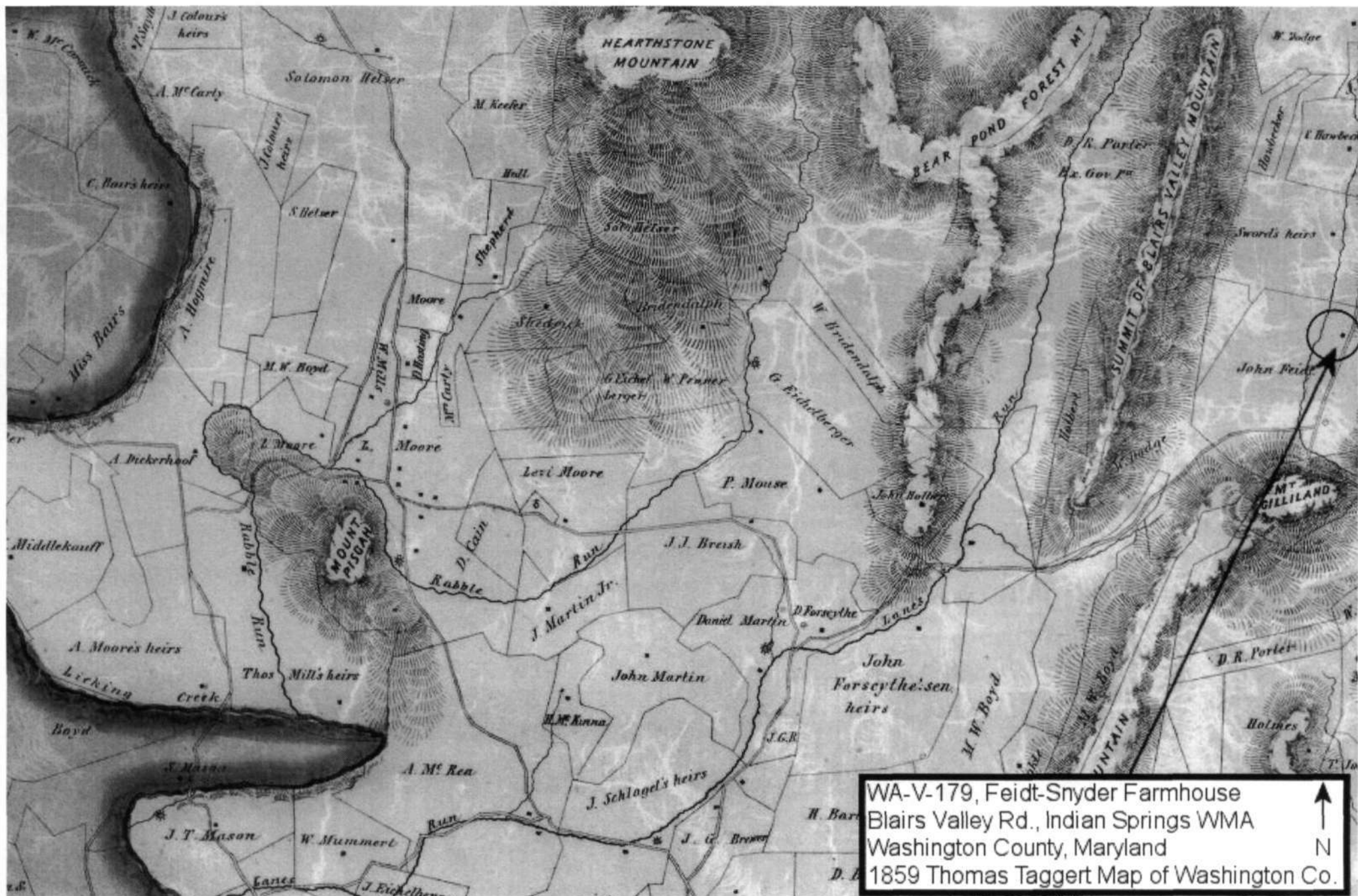
Floor plans  
Photo view and number (Interior) ↖ ①



WA-V-179, Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
Blairs Valley Rd., Indian Springs WMA  
Washington County, Maryland  
1877 Atlas Map of Washington Co.







WA-V-179, Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse  
Blairs Valley Rd., Indian Springs WMA  
Washington County, Maryland  
1859 Thomas Taggart Map of Washington Co.







WA-V-179

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Neq Loc. MHT

Nw view, S+E elevations

#1 of 16



WA-V-179

Fiedt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Road

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

April, 2010

P. Reed

Neg loc. MHT

West View, East Elevation

#2 of 16





WA-V-179

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Road

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Neq. Loc. MHT

SW view, E + N elevations

#3 of 16



WA-V-179

Feidt - Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Road

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

April 2010

R. Reed

Neg Loc. MHT

SE view, N + W elevations

#4 of 16





WA-V-179

Feidt - Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD Washington County

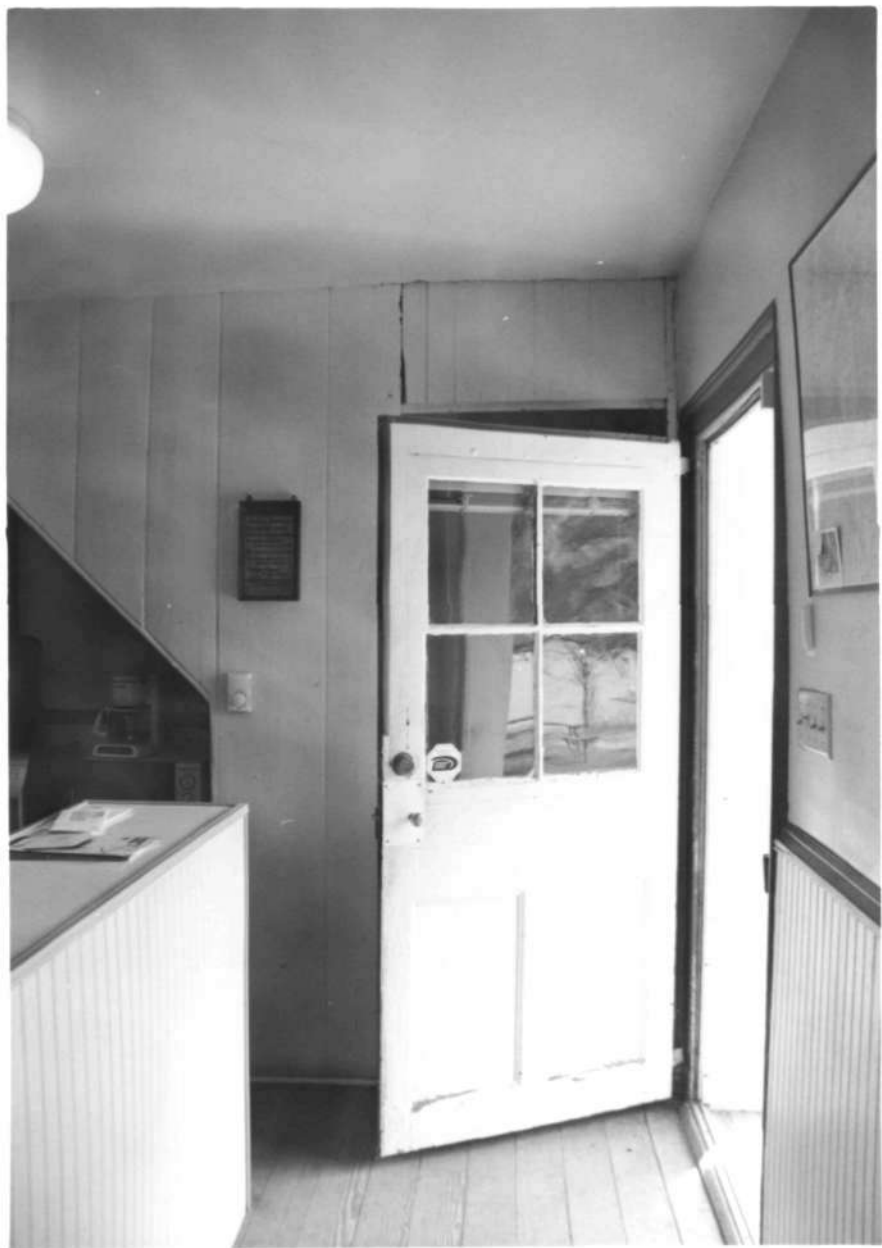
April 2010

P. Reed

Neg. loc. MHT

NE view, S + W elevations

#5 of 16



WA-V-179

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD. Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Neg loc. MHT

1<sup>st</sup> floor, east room, east view; door with strap  
hinge

#6 of 16





WA-V-179

Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Neg. Loc. MHT

1<sup>st</sup> floor, central room, SE view

#7 of 16

FORESTRY  
OFFICE

WILDLIFE OFFICE  
SECOND FLOOR



WA-V-179

Fedt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Neg. Loc. MHT

First floor, central room, New views

#8 of 16



WA - V - 179

Feldt - Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd

Clear Spring, MD. Washington Co. MD

April, 2010

P. Reed

Neg. Loc. MHT

1<sup>st</sup> floor, west room, SW view (addition)

#9 of 16





WA-V-179

Feidt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Neq Loc. MHT

Attic stair well, SE corner, paneling with wrought nails

#10 of 16



WA-V-179

Feidt - Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co

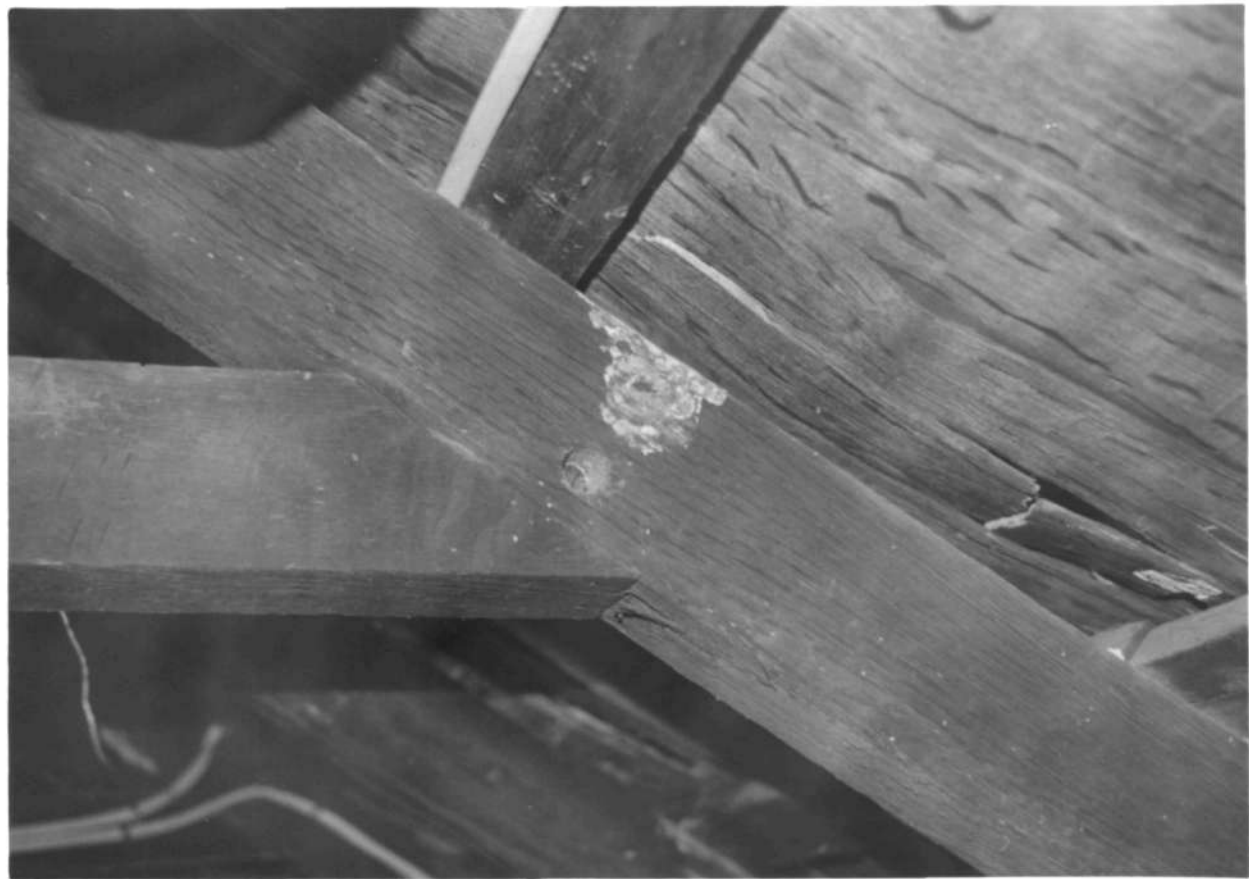
April 2010

P. Reed

Neg. Loc. MHT

Roof system with re-used rafter, shingle lathe  
and side-lapped oak long shingles.

#11 of 16





WA-V-179

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

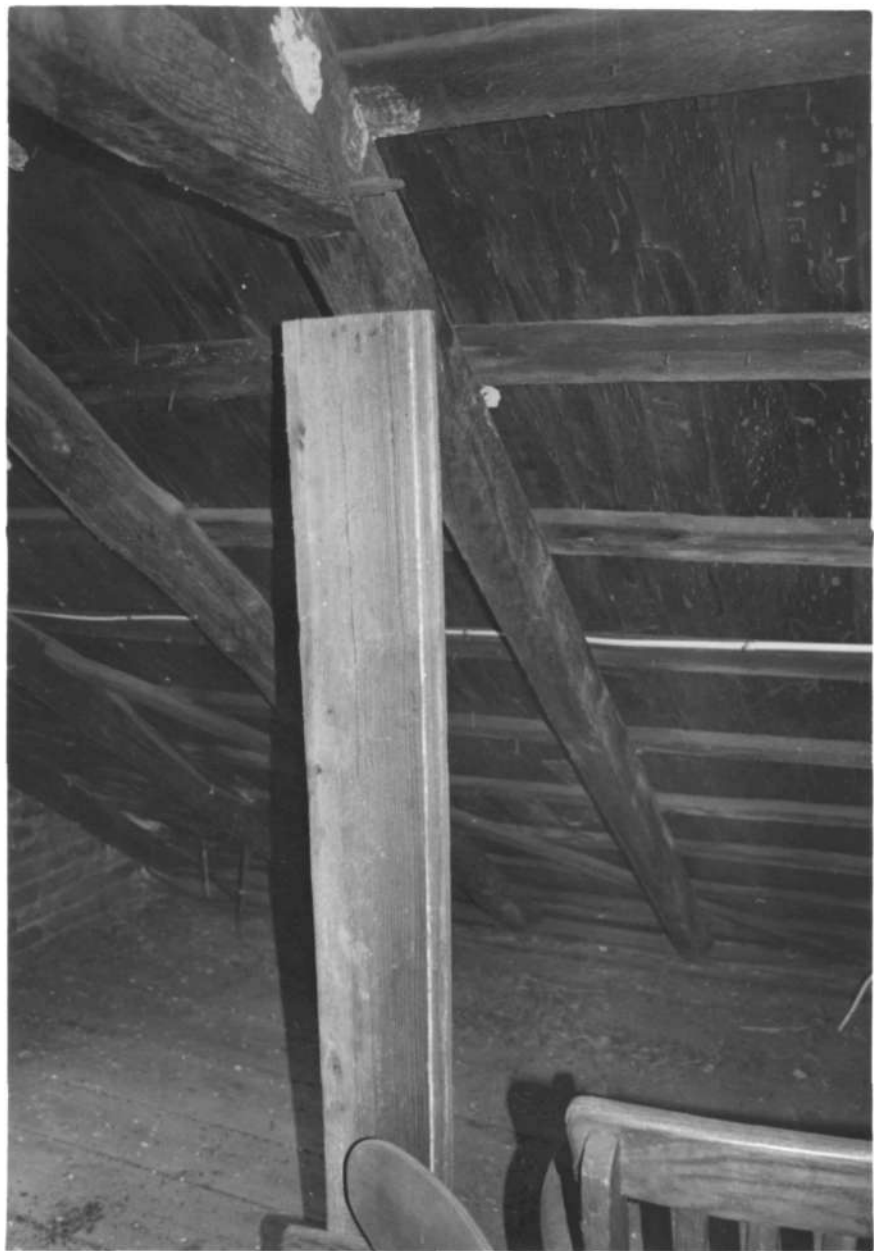
April 2010

P. Reed

Neq. Loc. MHT

Attic, rafter + collar with missing peg

#12 of 16



WA-V-179

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd

Clear Spring, MD. Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Noq Loc, MHT

Attic, west section with old rake board (barge board  
used as brace

#13 of 16



WA-V-179

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD, Washington County

April 2010

P. Reed

Neg Loc. MHT

West section (early 19th c. addition) attic floor

#14 of 16





WA-V-179

Feldt-Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd

Clear Spring, MD Washington Co.

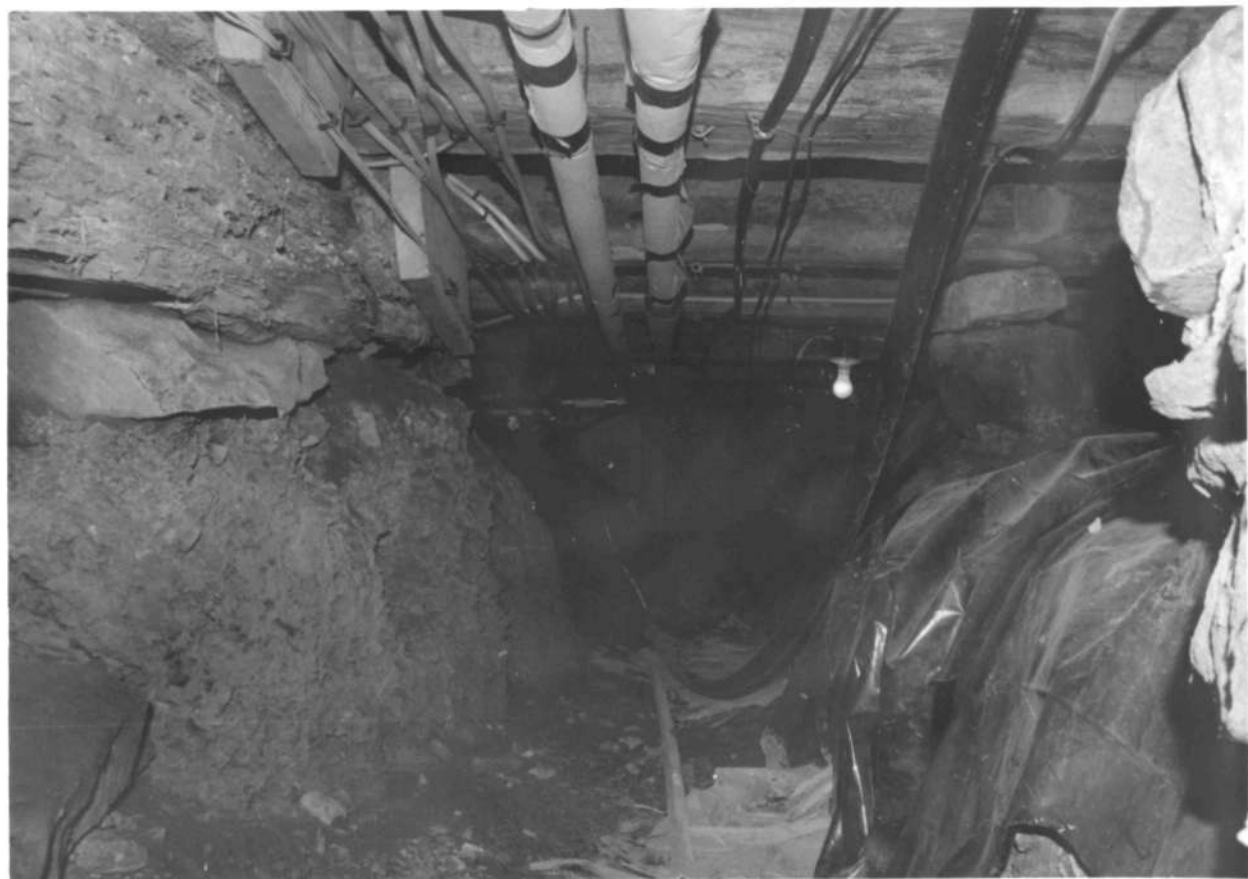
April 2010

P. Reed

Neg. Loc. MHT

Attic, west end wall, Chimney

#15 of 16



WA - V - 179

Feidt - Snyder Farmhouse

14038 Blair's Valley Rd.

Clear Spring, MD. Washington Co.

April 2010

P. Reed

Neg. Loc. MHT

Crawl space beneath older section, E view

#16 of 16

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-V-179  
District 4  
Map 7  
Parcel 10  
MAGI # 2213225935

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Blairs Valley Lake

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Blairs Valley

CITY, TOWN

☒ VICINITY OF Clear Spring

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Sportsman

NAME

State of Maryland Inland Fish and Game Commission

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

301 West Preston Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21201

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 435

Folio #: 259

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

WA-V-179

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Blairs Valley Lake is a large man made body of water owned by the Maryland Inland Fish and Game Commission. On the property is a farmstead which includes a house which appears to be brick cased and a frame bank barn. The house is a two story, five bay structure with a double porch separate from the main roof span along the entire front elevation. Its surface is painted red. The house may be a two part structure. All windows have two over two pane sashes which appear to be replacements. The windows are quite small relative wall area. A brick smoke house is located near the house.

Since this house is occupied, its construction could not be examined closely. It still appears likely, however, that the structure is at least in part built of log and cased with brick veneer. Two six over six pane sashes remain at the second story level of the front elevation. The house has an inside end chimney of brick at the west end wall and a small interior brick flue. The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal.

The brick smoke house located adjacent to the main house has a decorative brick open work ventilator.

South of the house is a frame bank barn resting on field-stone foundations. It is at present used for storage and for offices for the Blair's Valley Lake.

The house is in deteriorated condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-V-179

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house cannot be dated without further study. However, its general form as well as the size and placement of doors and windows could suggest a pre 1850 log building subsequently sheathed with brick.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 377.25 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

**Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION

**Preservation Associates**

DATE

**July 1978**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

**109 West Main Street, Box 202**

TELEPHONE

**301-432-5466**

CITY OR TOWN

**Sharpsburg**

STATE

**Maryland 21782**

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

ADDENDA

In 1984 the Department of Natural Resources contracted with Joe Getty to conduct a follow-up survey of selected historic properties on DNR lands. DNR funded the field survey and photography but did not prepare finished copy. The attached photocopy pages were forwarded to the Maryland Historical Trust to supplement existing files. All original material and photographs remain in the possession of the Department of Natural Resources under the supervision of Ross Kimmel (x3771).

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. WA-V - 179

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Snyder Farm Barn, Blairs Valley Lake

**2. Location**

street & number Blair's Valley Road, 4 mile north of Hanging Rock Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Clear Spring ☒ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Washington

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Department of Natural Resources

street & number Taxes State Office Bldg telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber 435

street & number West Washington Street folio 259

city, town Hagerstown state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title DNR Survey

July 1978 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources

city, town Annapolis state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. JA-V-179

Condition  
☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

Check one  
☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

Check one  
☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

ADDENDUM TO ORIGINAL FORM : SNYDER FARM BARN

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WA-5-179

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.





## DRAFT--DESCRIPTION

## SNYDER FARM BARN

Addendum to original form

The Snyder Farm Barn is a frame bank barn on a stone foundation built around the turn of the century. Oral traditions states that the barn replaced an early structure that was destroyed by fire. Most of the materials in the barn are early twentieth century while some of the hardware in the stone foundation may date from the earlier barn. The structure is 50 feet by 76 feet and contains pens on the foundation level for livestock. The main level has a projecting forebay and open framing. The framing system is traditional to the turn of the century and supports a principle purlin roof structure. At one time, the barn was painted in a white and green ornamental pattern that included arched patterns around the door on the south side.

The Snyder Farm Barn is located on the west side of Blairs Valley Road, .4 mile north of Hanging Rock Road. It is located adjoining Blair's Valley Lake, a large man-made body of water owned by the Maryland Inland Fish and Game Commission, north of Clear Spring in Washington County. The barn is located on a gently sloping site near the Snyder Farmhouse.

The Snyder Farm Barn is a frame bank barn on a stone foundation. It is constructed into a bank and has a foundation level with forebay on the north facade. The barn is covered in a vertical barn siding that at one time was painted white with green trim. The north facade ground story contains several

## Draft--Description--Snyder Farm Barn

2

doors which lead to livestock pens. The main story of the north facade contains a large sliding door flanked by single ventilator windows. The south facade is the bank facade and contains sliding doors which had a painted arched ornamentation on them (the westernmost door has been painted over a solid color. The east gable end contains a side entrance into the barn and three ventilator windows with a small ventilator window in the gable. There are also two foundation windows on this facade. The west gable end has a fully exposed foundation level covered in vertical siding with an entrance at the southernmost bay and two four pane windows along this level. The main story also has a doorway at the southernmost point, three ventilator windows, and a small ventilator in the gable. The gable roof is covered in sheet metal.

The interior of the foundation level has a large open room in the easternmost section. The westernmost section is divided into pens with a central aisle, an aisle along the south foundation wall, and a section of four pens on the east side and six pens on the west side of the central aisle. The pen arrangement includes hay mangers constructed of rounded dowels running through the stalls. The main floor contains a small partitioned office in the southeast corner of the structure that is now used for Blairs Valley Lake. The remainder of the main floor is open to the ceiling and contains framing system with bracing to support two principle purlins that carry the common rafter through. The framing is mortised, tenoned, and pegged.

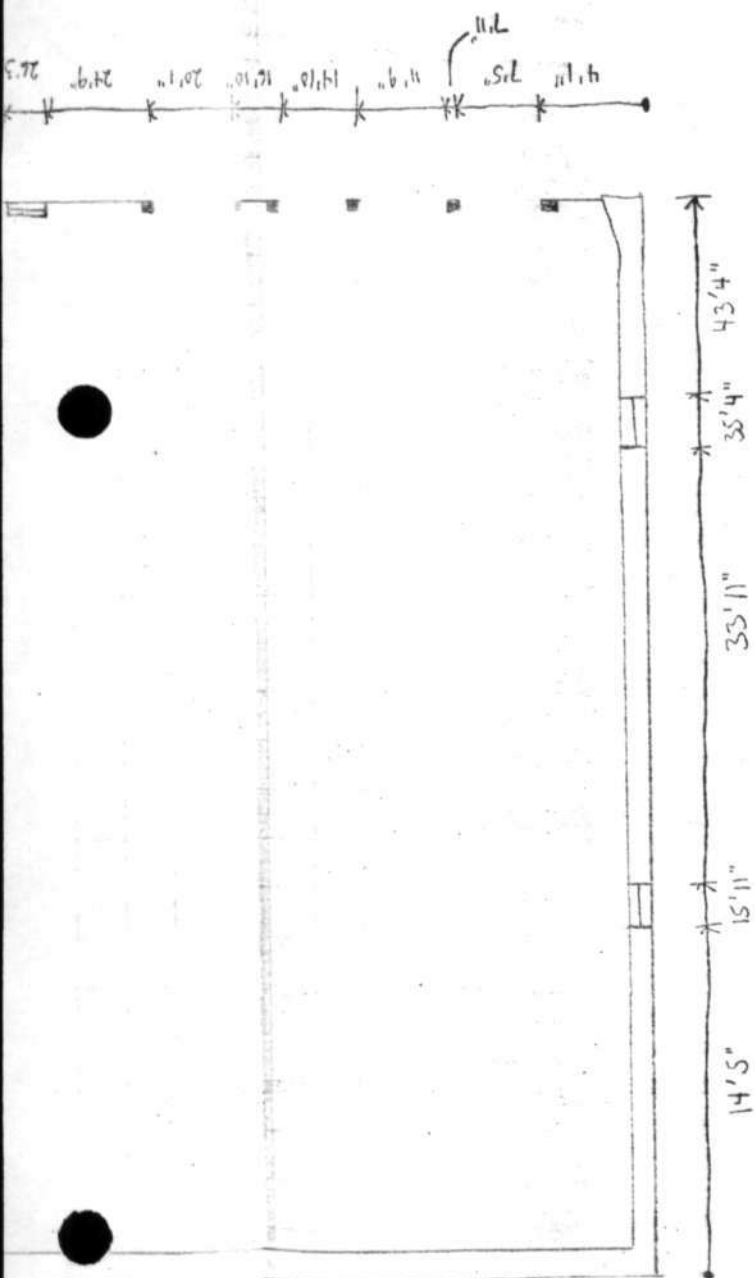
The exterior of the barn is covered in a vertical siding. Most of the hardware in the barn is early twentieth century.

There are two dates painted at separate locations around the barn. At the northwest corner painted in green letters on a concrete covered stone foundation are the words "Henry Snyder, 1921." On one of the doors are the letters "C A S, Apr. 1, 1917." Oral traditions states that an early barn was destroyed by fire on this site and current barn was built by Henry Snyder in the early twentieth century.

Significance.

The Snyder Farm Barn is a representative frame bank-barn from the turn of the century. In construction techniques, materials, and use, the structure displayed characteristics typical of those found for such agriculture buildings in central Maryland.

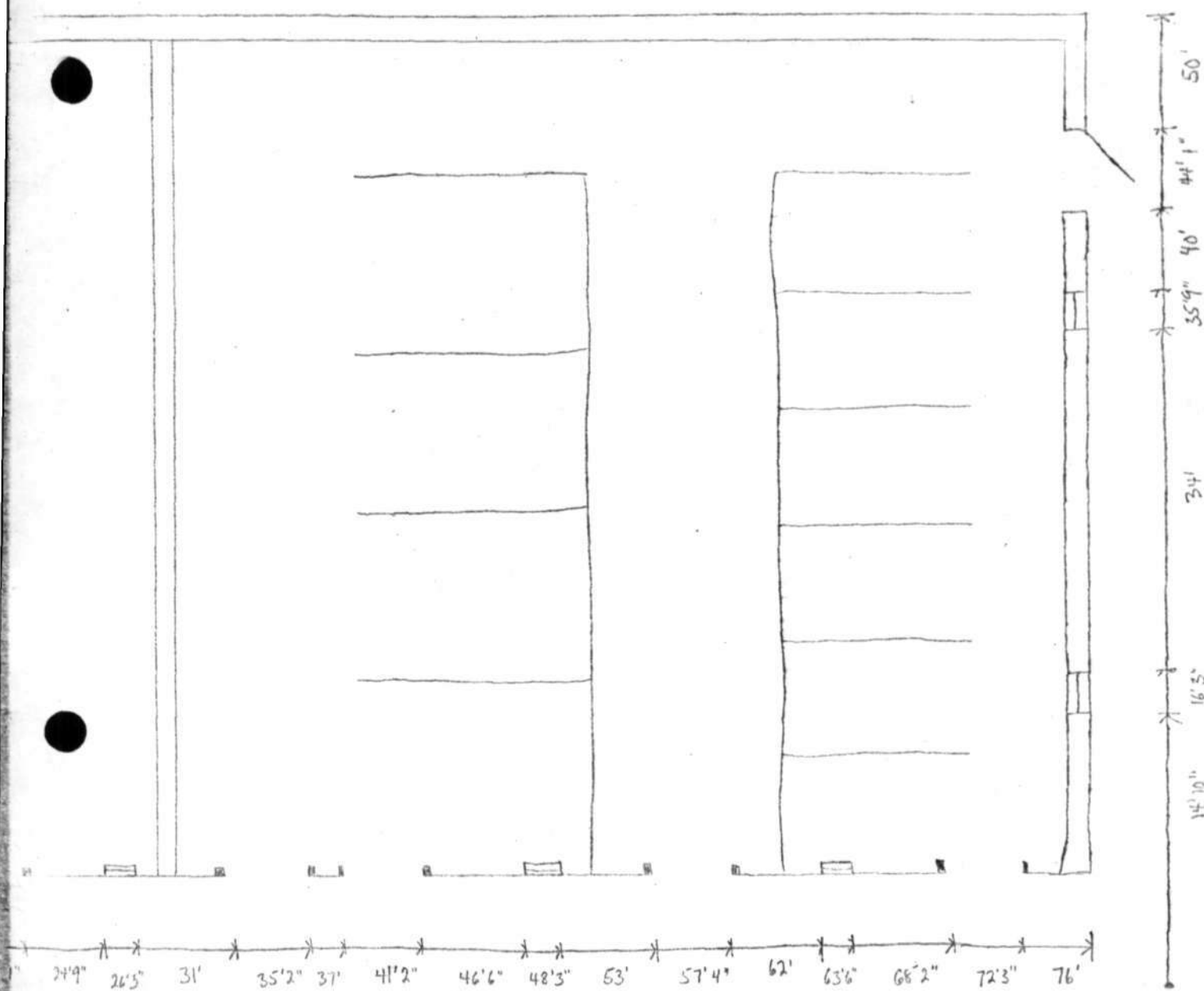
Oral tradition states that the structure was built in the early twentieth century on the foundation of an earlier barn that was destroyed by fire. In one corner of the foundation are the ~~painted~~ words "Henry Snyder 1921" painted in green paint over concrete applied to the stone foundation. Over one door under the ~~forebay~~ are the initials C.A.S. with the date Apr. 1, 1917. These do not necessarily indicate date of construction (they could indicate date of painting or other improvements). It appears that these dates could be accurate for construction of the barn based on examination of the hardware and construction techniques.



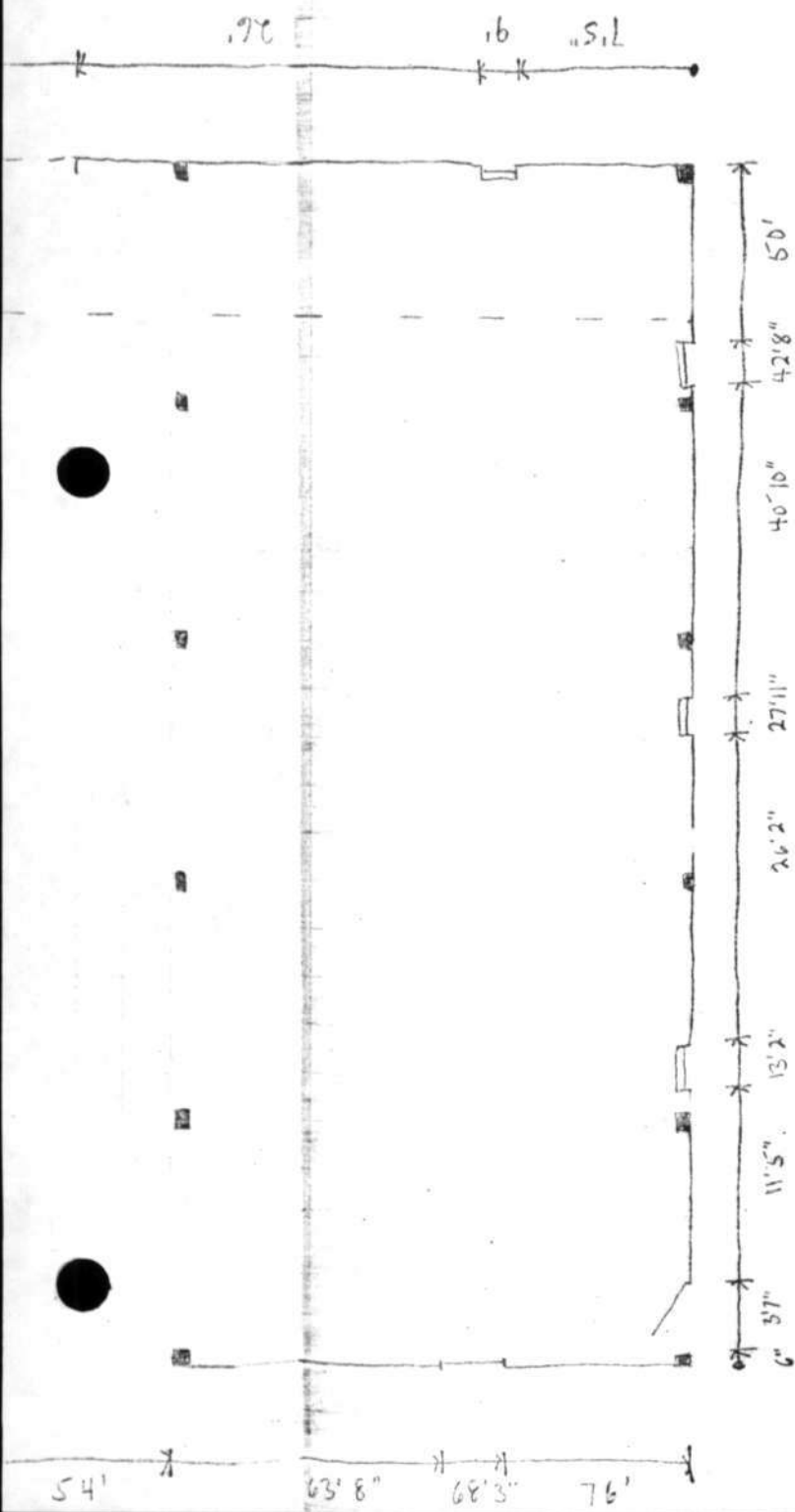
WA-V-179 Snyder Farm Barn

Foundation Level

scale -  $\frac{1}{8}" = 1 \text{ foot}$



WA-V-179

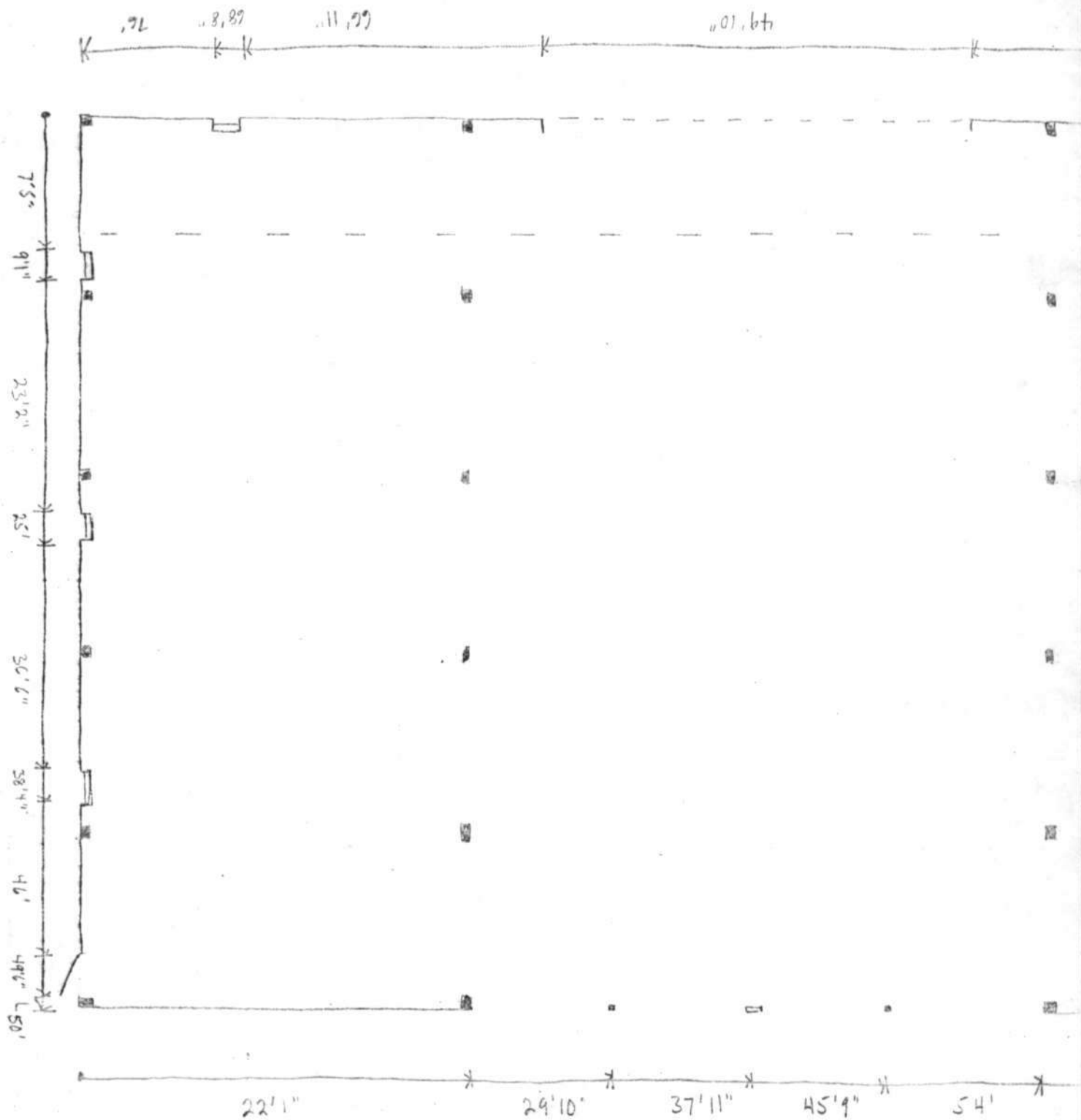


WA-V-179 Snyder Farm Barn

Main Floor

scale -  $\frac{1}{8}" = 1 \text{ foot}$





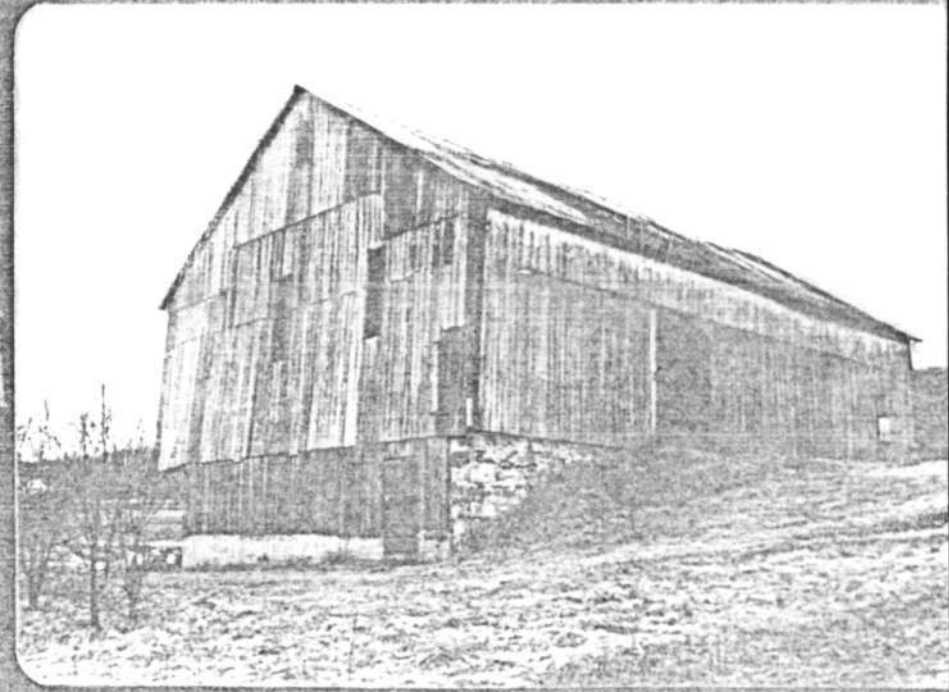
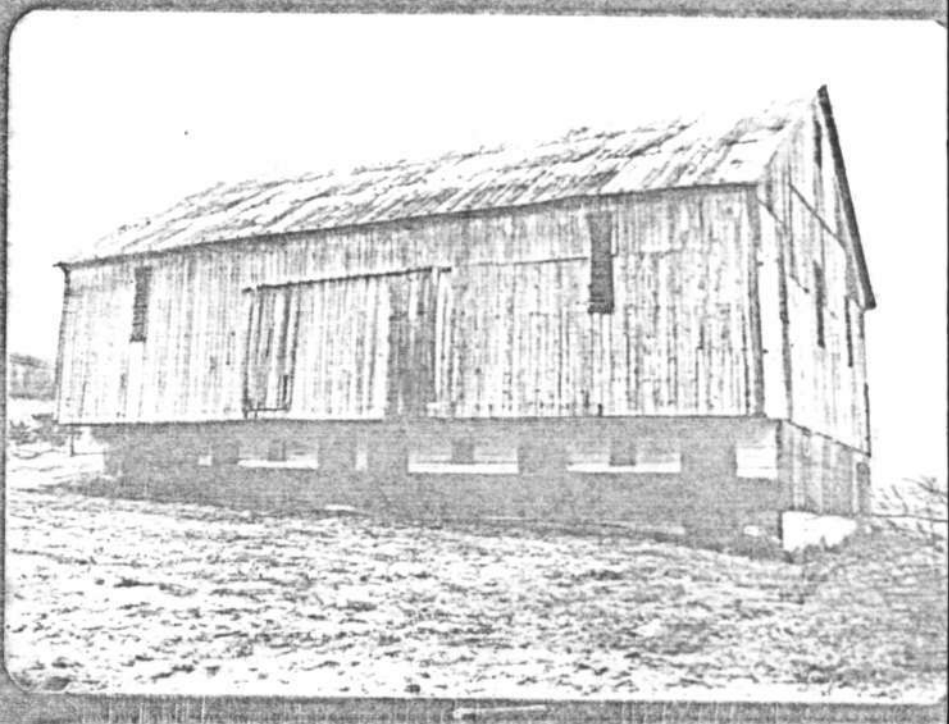
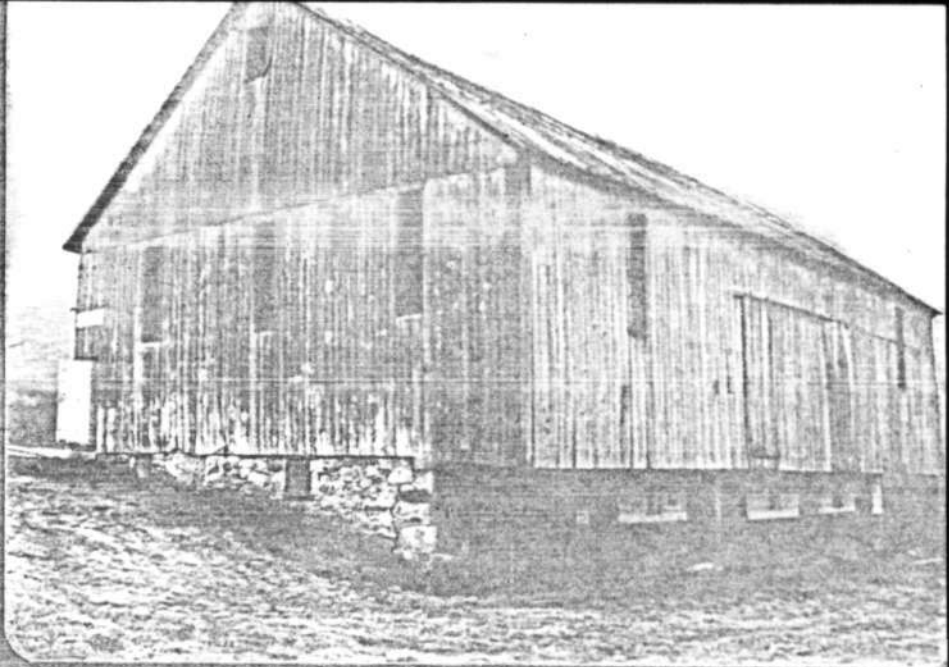
WA-V-179

WA-V-179 Snyder Farm Barn

top - north & east facades

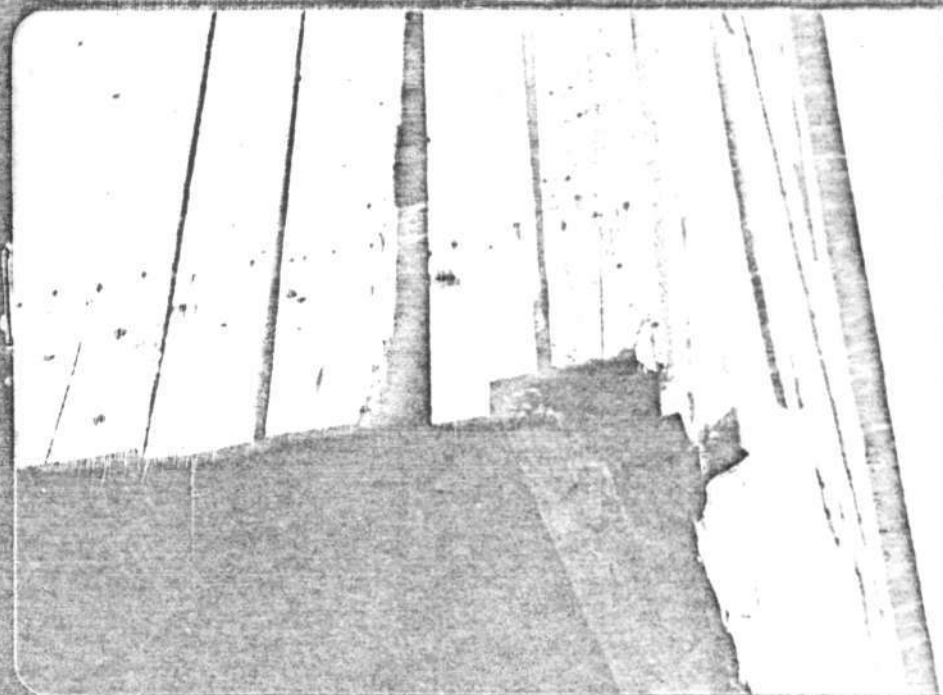
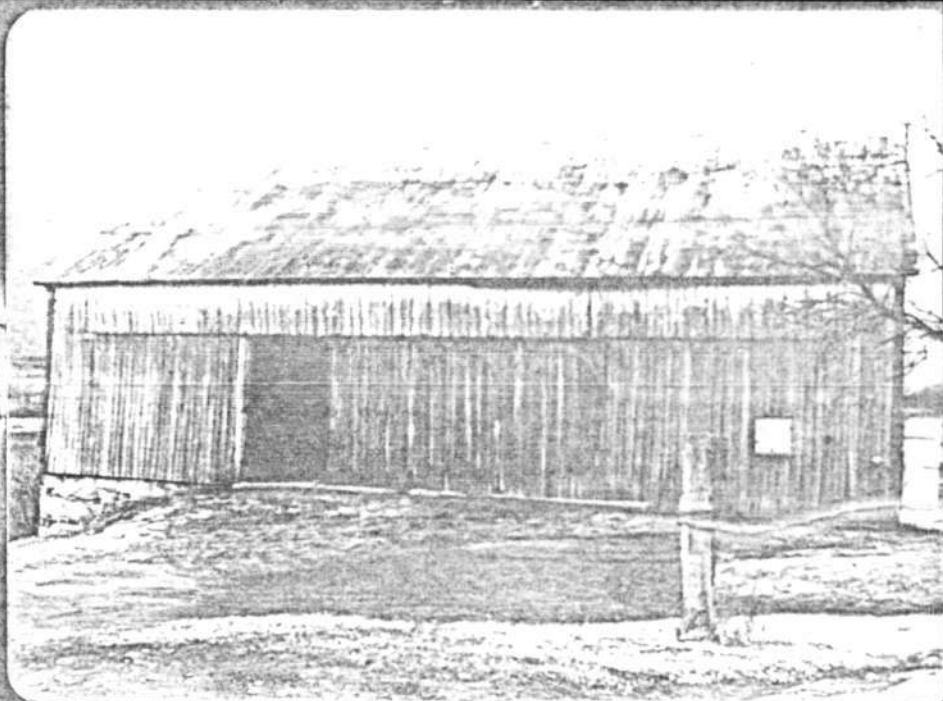
center - north & west facades

bottom - south & west facades



WA-V-179 Snyder Farm Barn

top - south facade  
center - forebay  
bottom - forebay detail



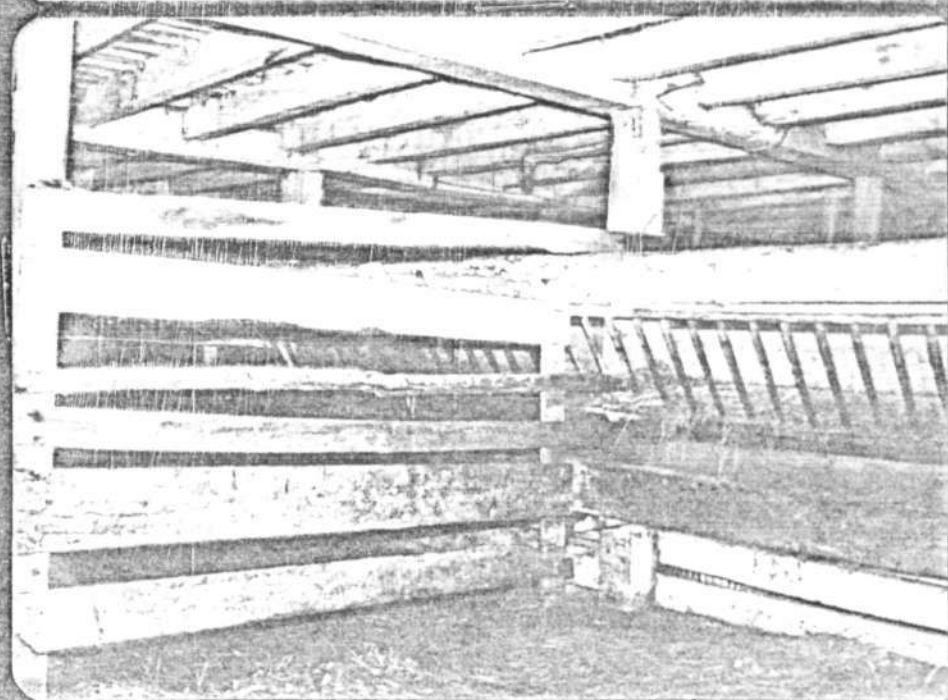
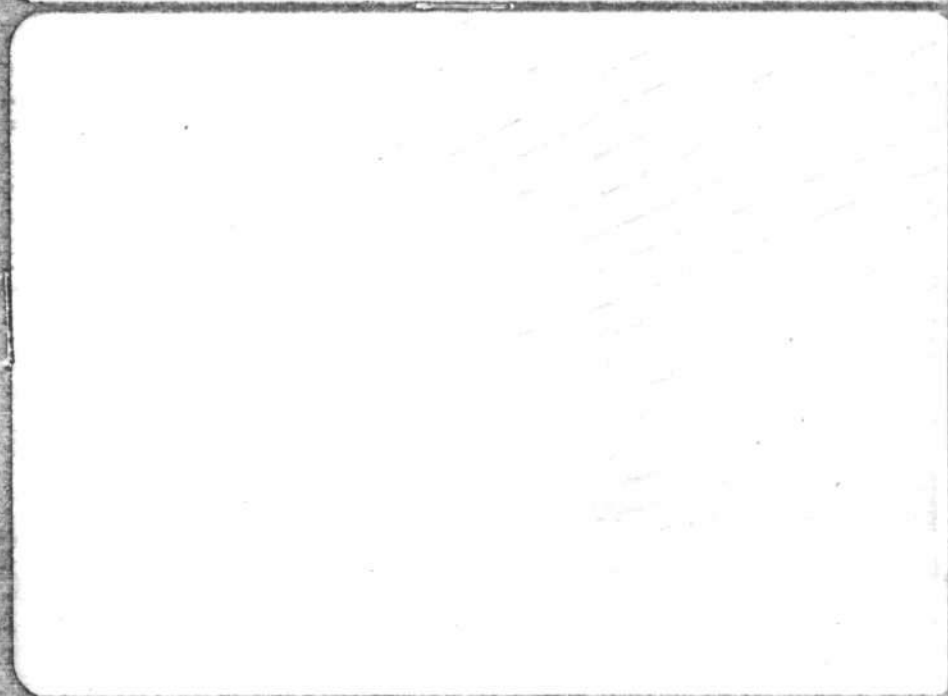
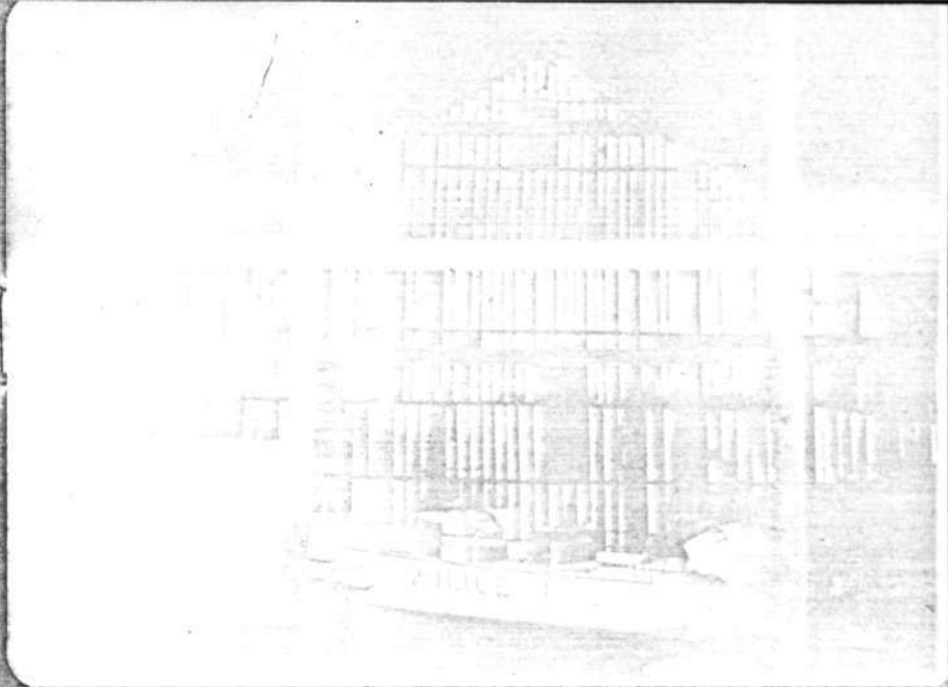


WA-V-179 Snyder Farm Barn

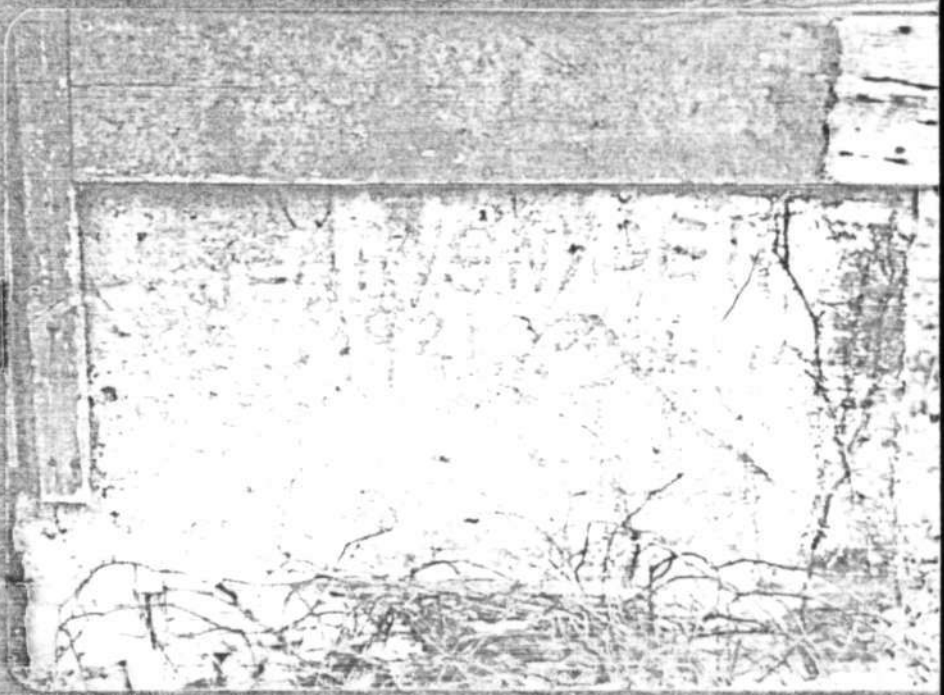
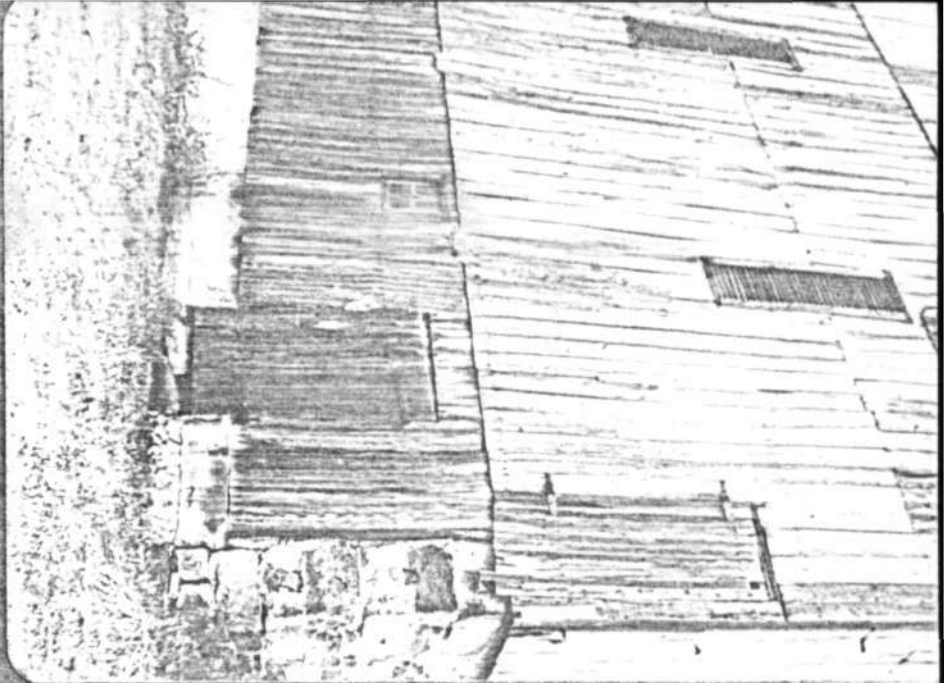
top - interior framing

center - framing detail

bottom - livestock pen



WA-II-179 Snyder Farm Barn  
top - west facade - detail  
center - "Henry Snyder 1921"  
bottom - "CAS APR 1, 1917"



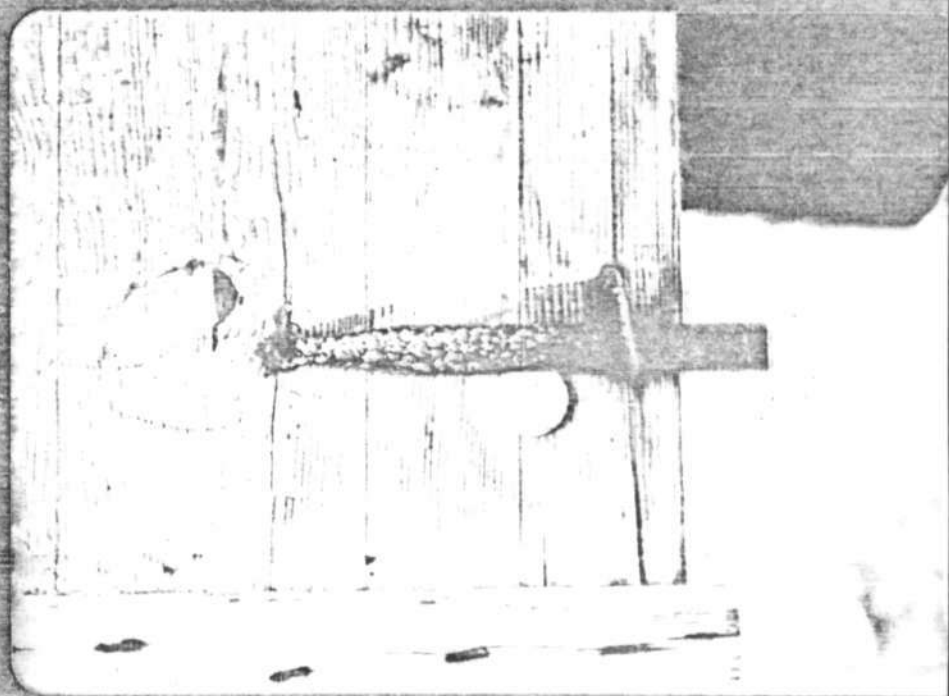
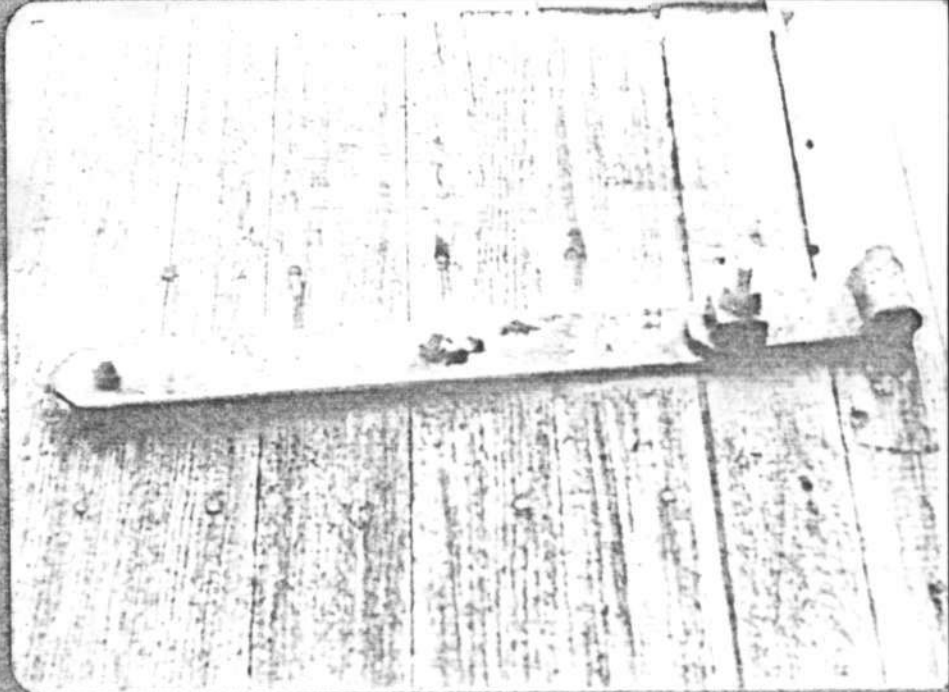


WA-II-179 Snyder Farm Barn

Blaine Valley Road

top - strap hinge

bottom - iron latch



VA-II-179 SNYDER FARM  
DNR-12,13,16

CLEAR SPRING  
QUAD





WA-V-179

Indian Springs WMA

"Snyder Farm" N.W. View

Dec. 1973

Pete Stoner  
Preservation Associates



WA-V-179

Indian Springs Wildlife Manag. Area

"Snyder Farm" - Bannock Sw. View

Dec. 1973

Paula Stoner  
Preservation Associates